

Holidays & Symbols

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Note to the Reader:

You might have noticed that Halloween was not listed above in the Table of Contents. It is so blatantly demonic that I will not discuss it here. If you are interested in where it came from, there is plenty of information online which a simple Google search will reveal.

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

It was a hard day at work, but Julius always rejoiced when coming home to his wife. And even more so now due to the sweet smells of cakes and cookies and the beautifully lit tree. This evening, though in the midst of the coldest part of winter, begins a week that was always considered to be “the best days of the year”. All the women bake tasty cookies and cakes and decorate them with smiling faces or crosses, so the city smells of sweetness. The houses and streets are aflame with many candles, and there are boughs of laurel and holly on the fences and doors of almost every home.

This week is the time of the feast, the time longed for all year. Some people like this feast most of all for its laxity of ordinary rules, for this is the only time of year you can insult your boss and not be reprimanded for it. During this week, all bosses serve their employees, and all employees pretend to be bosses. But Julius liked this feast most of all because there is always plenty of food, especially ham (his favorite), and the wine from the fall harvest is abundant. He planned to spend his week feasting and resting with the family and playing games with the children and with friends. All businesses are closed, so there would be no work to do anyway, and since there’s no work, he might as well put his nice work clothes away and put on something more comfortable. Gambling with cookies while playing cards or dice couldn’t hurt. It was a time of peace and wishing each other goodwill in the coming year. And he had a few small gifts for his family members and closest friends. (He couldn’t wait to see their faces!)

The yule log in the fireplace and the sweet savor of cakes combined to create a relaxing atmosphere for this country-wide week-long sabbatical. Ahhh, it really is the most wonderful time of the year.

Does this sound like any holiday you celebrate? If you think it’s describing Christmas, you’re wrong! This short narrative describes the Roman celebration of Saturnalia, observed before the time of Christ, yet doesn’t it sound almost exactly like current Christmas practices? Well, yes, because Christmas is simply the new name for the old pagan festival of Saturnalia!

Saturnalia was a Roman festival which honored the rebirth of the sun-God after his “death” at the winter solstice. Most ancient cultures had a winter solstice festival, and what is remarkable is how many of today’s Christmas celebrations are identical to these ancient, ungodly superstitions!

*“In the Babylonian and Assyrian legend, Nimrod died in his prime leaving a queen named Semiramis. At his death, Nimrod according to legend, became immortal, and his spirit flew up to the sun and took possession of it. Hence, he became Beel-saman, ‘Lord of Heaven’. After Nimrod had died and became the Sun God, Semiramis his queen [the biblical ‘Queen of Heaven’] became pregnant, she claimed to be a virgin, and after Nimrod’s death, according to legend, begot a child by Nimrod’s spirit coming down on her from the sun. She proclaimed to her subjects that her husband’s spirit entered into her womb through a sunbeam and begot the legendary **god-child Tammuz** (Ezekiel 8:14), **he was born December 25.**”¹*

Tammuz was the Babylonish name for the Persian god Mithra (or Mithras). He was always the life-giving sun in human form, and went by many names in different cultures, such as Bacchus, Hercules, Dionysus, Attis, Osiris, Horus, Krishna, Yi, Quetzalcoatl, Balder, etc. All of these legends say that their god the sun was born on December 25 when the days begin to get longer.

Interestingly, Christmas was NOT celebrated by Christians until the fourth century. The early Christians who LOVED the truth wouldn’t ALLOW pagan practices in the church.

*“Indeed, it is admitted by the most learned and candid writers of all parties that the day of our Lord’s birth cannot be determined, and that within the Christian Church **NO SUCH FESTIVAL AS CHRISTMAS WAS EVER HEARD OF TILL THE THIRD CENTURY, and that not till the FOURTH CENTURY was far advanced did it gain much observance.**”²*

The apostles – the FOUNDERS of the New Testament church – the men who KNEW Christ face-to-face and were sent by Him to spread the gospel and teach others around the world NEVER KEPT CHRISTMAS! Nor

¹ Sutton, William. *Antichrist* 666.

² Hislop, Alexander. *The Two Babylons*.

did the people they taught! It was NOT in the early church! Even the Catholic Church concedes that Christmas was not a part of the early church's practices.

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts...."³

The early Christian Church did not even MENTION Christmas, let alone keep it! Did Jesus tell them to keep His birthday? NO! Did the apostles keep Christ's birthday? NO! Did even Paul keep Christ's birthday? NO! Don't you think that if Christmas SHOULD be kept, it would be in the Bible SOMEWHERE? Yet, it is nowhere in the New Testament, and NOWHERE in the early church! It wasn't until the FOURTH CENTURY – 300 years AFTER Christ – that they started keeping this festival honoring a false god! Hislop affirms that this practice was ADOPTED from the pagans by the Roman Catholic Church:

*"How, then, did the Romish church fix on December 25th as Christmas-day? Why, thus: Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen, at that precise time of the year, in honor of the birth of the son of the Babylonian Queen of Heaven; and it may fairly be presumed that, **in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents to Christianity, THE SAME FESTIVAL WAS ADOPTED BY THE ROMAN CHURCH, giving it the name of Christ.** This tendency on the part of Christians to MEET PAGANISM HALF-WAY was very early developed."*⁴

Christmas exists today SOLELY because the Catholic Church wanted to keep PAGANS happy! They adopted their customs and their rituals and "baptized" them to make them "holy". ALL they cared about was how many people they had in their church! It was for POWER that they compromised the truth! Should Christ be CHANGED, and ADDED TO, and CORRUPTED with the worship of pagan gods, just so that HEATHENS can be more comfortable and the church can have more "members"? I should say not!!

The Tree And Its Ornaments

The tree has always been included in the winter solstice celebration. It represents life. According to ancient Babylonian mythology, the sun God was represented as a divine child, who was born at the winter solstice as a new incarnation of the great god after he had been cut in pieces by his enemy. This great god is pictured as a large tree, stripped of its branches and cut down to the ground – symbolizing being cut off or killed in the midst of his power and glory. But the great serpent, the symbol of the life-restoring Aesculapius, twists itself around the dead stump, and then beside it sprouts a young tree of a different type; it is destined never to be cut down by hostile power. In Egypt this was the palm tree, a well-known symbol of victory. In Rome it was the fir tree. In the United States today, it is the evergreen Christmas tree, a close relative to the Roman fir.

This god required sacrifices from his followers to confirm their loyalty. The Carthaginians were especially noted for their devotion to Cronus, one of many such false gods. Diodorus Siculus writes in his Library of History about the practices of the Carthaginians:

*"They also alleged that Cronus had turned against them [because they lost a battle] inasmuch as in former times they had been accustomed to sacrifice to this god the noblest of their sons, but more recently, secretly buying and nurturing children, they had sent these to the sacrifice... When they had given thought to these things and saw their enemy encamped before their walls, they were filled with superstitious dread, for they believed that they had neglected the honours of the gods that had been established by their fathers. In their zeal to make amends for their omission, they selected two hundred of the noblest children and sacrificed them publicly; and others who were under suspicion sacrificed themselves voluntarily, in number not less than three hundred. There was in their city a bronze image of Cronus, extending its hands, palms up and sloping toward the ground, so that each of the children when placed thereon rolled down and fell into a sort of gaping pit filled with fire."*⁵

³ The Catholic Encyclopedia. "Christmas".
<https://web.archive.org/web/20141009084218/http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03724b.htm>

⁴ Hislop, Alexander. *The Two Babylons*.

⁵ Diodorus Siculus. *Library of History*. Book 20. Chapter 14.

It should be added that parents were not allowed to cry or mourn for their children, and during the sacrifices loud music would be playing so that the screams of the child would not be heard.

Plutarch wrote:

“...with full knowledge and understanding they themselves offered up their own children, and those who had no children would buy little ones from poor people and cut their throats as if they were so many lambs or young birds; meanwhile the mother stood by without a tear or moan; but should she utter a single moan or let fall a single tear, she had to forfeit the money, and her child was sacrificed nevertheless; and the whole area before the statue was filled with a loud noise of flutes and drums so that the cries of wailing should not reach the ears of the people.”⁶

The 12th-century Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki (also known as Rashi), commenting on Jeremiah 7:31 stated:

“Tophet is Moloch, which was made of brass; and they heated him from his lower parts; and his hands being stretched out, and made hot, they put the child between his hands, and it was burnt; when it vehemently cried out; but the priests beat a drum, that the father might not hear the voice of his son, and his heart might not be moved.”⁷

These sacrifices usually took place in groves of trees. The altar and statue would usually be under the largest tree and on a platform above the people. So the tree became associated with child sacrifice to pagan gods.

1 Kings 14:23. *For they [the men of Judah] also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree [to serve Baal. See **Jeremiah 11:13**, **Zephaniah 1:4**].*

Jeremiah 32:35. *And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.*

Regarding the ornaments on today's Christmas trees, there are two theories. The first is that they represent the heads of those conquered by Nimrod, the original Baal. The second is that, since the tree is a sign of life and type of phallic symbol, the balls on the tree represent the testicles of Baal, the life-giving god. Of course, all of this could (speculation alert!) just hark back to the original Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, with the ornaments representing the forbidden fruit.

The gifts under the tree came from the gradual shift away from sacrificing children under the trees in the groves. Because people are “more civilized” today, they offer children gifts instead of offering their children to Baal through fire as gifts.

“Father Christmas can be traced back to a Carthaginian deity whose brazen fiery belly ate children, who were themselves the gifts.”⁸

Of course the Carthaginians worshiped Baal, or Cronus, who is said to have eaten his own children.⁹ Other historians write that *“there is a consensus among scholars that Carthaginian children were sacrificed by their parents, who would make a vow to kill the next child if the gods would grant them a favor: for instance that their shipment of goods were to arrive safely in a foreign port. They placed their children alive in the arms of a bronze statue of ‘the lady Tanit... The hands of the statue extended over a brazier into which the child fell once the flames had caused the limbs to contract and its mouth to open... The child was alive and conscious when burned...”¹⁰*

Does this sound like a Christian tradition to you?!? The sacrificing of children for any reason is far from the heart of the true God. It truly is a tradition of the Devil, who has been a murderer from the beginning!

⁶ Plutarch. *De Superstitiones*. Section 13.

⁷ Yitzhaki, Rabbi Shlomo. Commentary on Jeremiah 7:31.

⁸ Sansom. *A Book of Christmas*. 1968.

⁹ Wikipedia. “Cronus”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20130130101736/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cronus>

¹⁰ *ibid*.

Jeremiah 19:5. *They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind:*

So when you offer your children presents at this time of year, you are honoring the Devil who rejoiced in the sacrificing of children!

Of course, human sacrifices were offered at various times throughout the year, and included adults as well as children, but many cultures offered sacrifices at the winter solstice. Why? Because the sun needed the energy and life of the young to regain his strength and begin to lengthen the days so that crops would be able to grow the following spring.

All of that is wrapped up (pun intended) in the meaning of the Christmas tree with its ornaments and presents. Christmas really is “for the children”. Each year when you put up the tree and decorate it, you are paying homage to a pagan god that requires the sacrifices of your children for the salvation of your soul!

Yule Log, Lights, Candles

“There is no authoritative tradition as to the day or month of Christ’s birth ... The winter solstice was regarded as the birthday of the sun and at Rome a pagan festival of the nativity of ‘sol invictus’ was introduced by the Emperor Aurelian on 25th December 274. The church, unable to stamp out this popular festival, spiritualised it as the feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness. When Christianity spread northwards it encountered a similar pagan festival also held at the winter solstice – the great Yule feast of the Norsemen. Once again Christmas absorbed heathen customs.”¹¹

The name “Yuletide” comes from the Norse name for their 12-day winter solstice festival. The Yule season lasted up to two months in Scandinavia. (With all that winter, what else is there to do but party?) The season is connected with “The Wild Hunt” led by the god Odin (Nimrod). It is also believed that during this time, there is increased supernatural activity and that the undead walk about the earth. *“In most forms of Wicca, this holiday is celebrated at the winter solstice as the rebirth of the Great horned hunter god, who is viewed as the newborn solstice sun.”¹²*

The word “Yule” traces back to an Anglo-Saxon word meaning “wheel”. Thus it is connected with the circular motion of the sun through the equinoxes and solstices. The lighting of the Christmas fire on Christmas Eve was an important ritual. It was to be started from the previous year’s yule log. This log, if kept in the house (in some cases under the bed) during the year, will bring good luck to the family, protecting it from lightning and the “malevolent powers of the devil”.

Fires have been an important part of winter solstice celebrations. They are used in many cultures to keep their gods and undead family and friends warm as they (allegedly) join in the festivities. And smaller fires, represented by candles and lights, are a continuation of that theme. They were offered to Saturn as a symbol of his light. They represent the sun and signal farewell to the previous year with hope for what lies ahead in the new year. Candles and jingling bells are used during this time to ward off evil spirits (since the undead supposedly roam the earth during this festival, and presumably some of the undead have reason to hold grudges against some of the living...).

“It was the Yuletide, that men call Christmas though they know in their hearts it is older than Bethlehem and Babylon, older than Memphis and mankind.”¹³

Wreaths, Garland, Mistletoe

They are usually made from evergreens and symbolize strength, as evergreens last even throughout the harshest winters.

Roman magistrates also wore golden wreaths as crowns, as a symbolic testament to their lineage. At right is a picture of a golden wreath and ring



¹¹ Chambers Encyclopaedia. 1970. “Christmas”.

¹² Wikipedia. “Yule”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20130119143602/http://en.wikipedia.org>

¹³ Lovecraft. “The Festival” in *Weird Tales*. Volume 5. Number 1. 1925.

from the burial of an Odrysian Aristocrat at the Golyamata Mogila in the Yambol region of Bulgaria. It is dated to be from the mid 4th century B.C.

*"In the Greco-Roman world, wreaths were used as an adornment that could represent a person's occupation, rank, their achievements and status. The wreath that was commonly used was the laurel wreath. The use of this wreath comes from the Greek myth involving Apollo, Zeus' son and the god of life and light, who fell in love with the nymph Daphne. When he pursued her she fled and asked the river god Peneus to help her. Peneus turned her into a laurel tree. From that day, Apollo wore a wreath of laurel on his head. Laurel wreaths became associated with what Apollo embodied – victory, achievement and status – and would later become one of the most commonly used symbols to address achievement throughout Greece and Rome. Laurel wreaths were used to crown victorious athletes at the original Olympic Games."*¹⁴

Harvest wreaths were originally made for use in pagan rituals in ancient Europe. These rituals contained animistic beliefs and were associated with fertility and the changing seasons. Harvest wreaths were important symbols in ancient cultures, and they were used as sacred amulets. *"Christianity accepted the symbolism of the wreath based upon its Roman association with honour and moral virtue."*¹⁵

Mistletoe, as a Christmas decoration, was rarely alluded to until the 18th century. According to legend, the mistletoe must not touch the ground between its cutting and removal as the last of Christmas greens. If left hanging in the house throughout the year, it is believed to protect the house from lightning and fire. Mistletoe was considered to be a representation of male fertility and vitality in pre-Christian European cultures.

*"Because of the scheming of Loki, according to the 13th century Prose Edda, the god Baldr is killed by his brother, the blind god Höðr, by way of a mistletoe projectile, despite the attempts of Baldr's mother, the goddess Frigg, to have all living things and inanimate objects swear an oath not to hurt Baldr after Baldr had troubling dreams of his death. Frigg was unable to get an oath from mistletoe, because "it seemed too young" to demand an oath from."*¹⁶

The evergreens used during the Christmas season represent strength, power, fertility, vitality. They were used in ancient cultures as charms to ward off evil spirits, and they should have no place in the true Christian's home.

Santa Claus, Stockings

Many people don't like this aspect of the modern-day Christmas celebration because it leads people deeper into commercialism and trying to please their children at this time of year, instead of simply spending time with family (with or without gift-giving). However, it is a prominent part of American Christmas rituals, so let's see where it came from.

In the 4th century, there was a bishop in Myra (present-day Turkey) whose name was Nicholas. According to several accounts, he was a generous man and particularly devoted to children. *"He had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, and thus became the model for Santa Claus."*¹⁷

*"Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, thieves, children, pawnbrokers and students in various cities and countries around Europe.... In centuries of Greek folklore, Nicholas was seen as "The Lord of the Sea", often described by modern Greek scholars as a kind of Christianized version of Poseidon."*¹⁸

For those of you who aren't very familiar with Catholic and Orthodox practices, a patron saint is regarded as someone who intercedes for others in heaven. According to Catholic belief, Saint Nicholas is already in heaven and is praying for sailors, merchants, archers, thieves, children, pawnbrokers, and students. In some places, Saint Nicholas has replaced the more ancient gods:

¹⁴ Wikipedia. "Wreath". <https://web.archive.org/web/20130109094956/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wreath>

¹⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁶ Wikipedia. "Mistletoe". <https://web.archive.org/web/20130207234540/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistletoe>

¹⁷ Wikipedia. "Saint Nicholas".

https://web.archive.org/web/20121222104850/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Nicholas

¹⁸ *ibid.*

“In eastern Europe and southern Italy he [St. Nicholas] is above all things the saint of seafaring men, and among the Greeks his cult has perhaps replaced that of Artemis as a sea divinity.”¹⁹

December 6th is Saint Nicholas’ day in the Catholic and Orthodox churches. On this day, there is a festival for children where small gifts are given to them. In some countries, the celebration begins on the evening of December 5th. On December 5th (and in some cases including the days leading up to December 5th), children usually put their clean and shiny boots on the windowsill for Saint Nicholas to fill with small gifts. The children usually leave a carrot or hay in the boots to feed the Saint’s horse.

But did you know that there is a pre-Christian Santa Claus?! That’s right! BEFORE Christianization, many Germanic peoples celebrated the Yule, during which time, it is attested, *“supernatural and ghostly occurrences were said to increase in frequency, such as the Wild Hunt, a ghostly procession through the sky.”²⁰* The leader of the hunt is the god Odin, who also has names meaning “yule figure” and “long beard”. *“The god Odin’s role during the Yuletide period has been theorized as having influenced concepts of St. Nicholas in a variety of facets, including his long white beard and his gray horse for nightly rides... which was traded for reindeer in North America. Margaret Baker comments that ‘The appearance of Santa Claus or Father Christmas, whose day is 25th of December, owes much to Odin, the old blue-hooded, cloaked, white-bearded Giftbringer of the north, who rode the midwinter sky on his eight-footed steed Sleipnir, visiting his people with gifts. [...] Odin, transformed into Father Christmas, then Santa Claus, prospered with St Nicholas and the Christchild became a leading player on the Christmas stage.’”²¹*

Here is a chart that summarizes the similarities between Nicholas and Odin.

Nicholas	Odin
Rides through the air in a sleigh pulled by reindeer	Rides through the air on a gray horse
Long white beard	Long white beard
Children leave a wisp of straw in their shoes for Nicholas’ horse	Children leave a sheaf of grain for Odin’s horse

Others claim that attributes of the Germanic god Thor, the god of thunder, were transferred to Nicholas.²²

Nicholas	Thor
Elderly and heavy	Elderly and heavy
Long white beard	Long white beard
Dresses in red	Dresses in red
Workshop at the North Pole	Palace in the Northland
Friendly and cheerful	Friendly and cheerful
Comes down the chimney into the fire	Comes down the chimney into the fire
Rides through the air in a sleigh pulled by reindeer	Rides through the air in a chariot pulled by two white goats

Odin and Thor were present long before the time of Christ. Many of their traits and practices are nearly identical to the present-day Santa Claus! It seems evident that the present day Santa Claus is none other than the Odin or Thor of the pagan Germanic peoples.

The name St. Nicholas even refers to the Devil himself! Over time, St. Nicholas has been shortened to St. Nick or simply Nick or Old Nick, and *“Nick or Old Nick is a well-known appellation of the Devil. The name appears to have been derived from the Dutch Nikken, the devil, which again comes from the Anglo-Saxon nac-an, [meaning] to slay.”²³*

¹⁹ Miles, Clement. *Christmas in Ritual and Tradition*. 1912.

²⁰ Wikipedia. “Santa Claus”. https://web.archive.org/web/20130118205616/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Claus

²¹ *ibid.*

²² Bucher. “The Origin of Santa Claus and the Christian Response to Him”. 1999. <http://www.orthodox.com/html/santa.html> Accessed January 2013.

²³ Spence. *An Encyclopedia of Occultism*. 1996.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition (2000), defines “Old Nick” thus: The Devil; Satan.²⁴

Sure, it’s better to give your children presents *from* Saint Nick than to give them *as* presents to Old Nick... but should you really be doing either one? Is the heart of the festivals, both pagan sun-worship rituals, really different?

Conclusion

*“This may be a shocking thought to some: but after wrestling with the question for several years now, searching the scriptures and church history, I have come to the conclusion that **there is nothing Christian about Christmas**; that in its present observance, as well as in its origin, **Christmas is basically and essentially pagan**. What I’m saying, then, is that **the real Christmas has always been pagan**, and to make it a Christian celebration is to try to add Christ or biblical elements to an essentially pagan holiday.*”²⁵

*“What many in Christendom have been celebrating – **Christmas – is a thoroughly pagan holiday** – in its origin, in its trappings, and in all its traditions.... The modern conservative cry to put Christ back into Christmas is absurd. **Jesus Christ was never in Christmas.**”*²⁶

*“Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church ... the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt.”*²⁷

Many of the most widely-observed Christmas traditions came directly from paganism centuries before Christ! The Devil is cunning and sneaky, and his best trick is to take pagan customs and “baptize” them into the name of Christ by simply changing their names, when the true God of the Bible has condemned them!

Jeremiah 10:2-5. *Thus saith the LORD, **Learn not the way of the heathen**, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For **the customs of the people are vain**: for one **cutteth a tree** out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They **deck it with silver and with gold**; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright **as the palm tree**, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; **for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.***

The Devil’s deception is strong, and the deceived man doesn’t know he’s deceived! But now YOU KNOW where these traditions came from. It’s up to YOU to choose whom you will serve – God or Satan. Will you change your ways and believe the Bible, or will you continue to walk in the traditions of your God-forsaking church?

Appendix: When Was Jesus Born?

Was YOUR Lord – the TRUE God – born on December 25? Would HE be associated with pagan rites and false gods? Would He – the Light of the world – be born during the LONGEST NIGHT of the year? NO! The TRUE Jesus Christ was born in the spring. Consider the facts that point to this conclusion.

Winters in Jerusalem were always rainy and snowy:

Song of Solomon 2:11. *For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;*

Ezra 10:9. *It was the ninth month on the twentieth day of the month....*

The ninth month corresponds roughly to our November-December. And, it being the 20th day of the month, it would be middle to late December, which is when Christmas is celebrated. Notice the weather during this season:

Ezra 10:9, 13. *...and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, **trembling** because of this matter, and for the great rain.... it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without....*

²⁴ The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. “St. Nick”. 2000.

²⁵ Schneider. *Is Christmas Christian?* 2003.

²⁶ Meisel. *Tis the Season for Pagan Worship*. 1997.

²⁷ Catholic Encyclopaedia, 1911 edition. “Christmas”.

Psalm 147:16-17. He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?

Caesar had called a census of the people of Israel (**Luke 2:1**). He would not do it during the cold and rainy season because that would make travel difficult. It would be insane to demand hundreds of thousands – even millions – of people to tromp through freezing mud and snow for days – possibly even a week or more – just to register their household and pay their taxes. A better time to do it would be the spring or the fall, when they were already traveling to Jerusalem for the holy days anyway. The scriptures note that traveling to Jerusalem for the feasts was the custom of Jesus' parents (**Luke 2:42**). Even Christ told His followers to pray that their flight was not in winter (**Matthew 24:20**).

So, do you think that shepherds would be watching their flocks in the fields in this weather? NO! Yet, the shepherds were watching their flocks in the fields when Christ's birth was announced by the angels (**Luke 2:8**). During the winters, when people were not able to stand outside because of the cold and rain, shepherds would NOT have been out in the field with their sheep. They would have kept their sheep in the corral, and they would have stayed inside where it was warm!

*"It was a custom among the Jews to **send out their sheep to the deserts, about the passover, and bring them home at the commencement of the first rain**: during the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As the passover occurred in the spring, and the first rain began early in the month of Marchesvan, which answers to part of our October and November, we find that the sheep were kept out in the open country during the whole of the summer. And as these shepherds had not yet brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, **our Lord was not born on the 25th of December**, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could he have been born later than September, as the flocks were still in the fields by night. On this very ground the nativity in December should be given up. The feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact, which casts considerable light upon this disputed point."*²⁸

Christ is called the Lamb of God. Lambs are born in the spring, when the weather begins to warm up. Christ is also the first of the firstfruits. In God's holy day plan (**Leviticus 23**), the firstfruits were offered in the spring. So, Christ was born in the spring – not in the fall or in the dead of winter!

²⁸ Clarke, Adam. *Commentary*. Vol. 5. p. 370.

THE REAL ORIGIN OF EASTER

Acts 12:3-4. *And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the **days of unleavened bread**.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people.*

This one translation has caused a lot of misunderstanding. The word here translated as “Easter” is from the Strong’s word 3957 “pascha”, meaning “passover”, and it was correctly translated 28 of the 29 times used in the Bible.

“There never was a more absurd or unhappy translation than this. The original is simply after the Passover, meta to pasca. The word Easter now denotes the festival observed by many Christian churches in honour of the resurrection of the Saviour. But the original has no reference to that; nor is there the slightest evidence that any such festival was observed at the time when this book was written. ...The word Easter is of Saxon origin, and is supposed to be derived from Eostre, the goddess of love, or the Venus of the North, in honour of whom a festival was celebrated by our pagan ancestors in the month of April.”²⁹

Recall the Biblical Passover. Ancient Israel was enslaved to the Egyptians. God, through Moses, asked Pharaoh to release His people, but Pharaoh refused. So God sent plagues upon the Egyptians, and the tenth plague was the death of the firstborn, of man and of beast. But those that had sacrificed a lamb and placed its blood upon their door posts did not receive this plague – God’s spirit passed over those houses.

The Biblical Passover remembers the time when God overlooked their sins through the sacrifice of the lamb. In the New Testament, Jesus took the place of that lamb, becoming a sacrifice for sins and buying spiritual freedom from the slavery of sin.

When you observe the Biblical Passover, you recall these events and their meaning, but when you observe Easter, you are celebrating something different entirely – a different god!

Easter = Eostre = Astarte = Ishtar = Queen Of Heaven^Y

“Easter” comes from the Norse name of a springtime fertility goddess. Easter “is derived from Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility”.³⁰

“The name Easter comes from the ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. Eostre or Ostara, in whose honor an annual spring festival was held. Some of our Easter customs have come from this and other pre-Christian spring festivals.”³¹

Notice that Compton admits that certain present-day Easter customs come directly from this pagan spring festival, as well as from other *pre-Christian spring festivals*!

“Easter, for instance, a time of sacrifice and rebirth in the Christian year, takes its name from the Norse goddess Eostre, in whose honour rites were held every spring. She in turn was simply a northern version of the Phoenician earth-mother[▲] Astarte, goddess of fertility.”

The Reader’s Digest Association links the Norse Eostre with the ancient Phoenician Astarte.³² Both were goddesses of fertility and had their festivals at the same time in the spring. And Astarte has been identified with Ishtar and Inanna:

“Ishtar is identified with the Sumerian goddess Inanna and with Astarte of the Phoenicians and Babylonians.”³³

²⁹ Barnes’ New Testament Notes. 1870. Volume XI. p. 190.

³⁰ Funk and Wagnall. *Standard Reference Encyclopedia*. 1912. Vol. 8. p. 2940.

³¹ *Compton’s Pictured Encyclopedia*. Vol. 4. p. 140.

[▲] earth-mother = mother earth = Gaia. And if the Phoenician earth-mother is Astarte, then Gaia is simply another name for her.

³² Reader’s Digest Association. *The Last Two Million Years*. 1981. p. 215.

³³ Coulter, Charles Russell and Patricia Turner. *Encyclopedia of Ancient Deities*. 2012.

The same writer gives over 30 names for this goddess[♦] as well as the following information about her in his work *Encyclopedia of Ancient Deities*:

*“...Ishtar is generally thought to have originally been the earlier Sumerian goddess Inanna. Ishtar is a mother goddess, fertility goddess, the goddess of spring, a storm goddess, a warrior and goddess of war, a goddess of the hunt, a goddess of love, goddess of marriage and childbirth, goddess of fate, and a goddess who is the divine personification of the planet Venus. She is also an underworld deity. Her predominate aspects are as the mother goddess of compassion and the goddess of sex and war.... The sexual aspect of her persona is linked to the earth's fertility.”*³⁴

Another writer links Astarte and Isis with Beltis, the Queen of Heaven:

*“Isis [is] the Egyptian title for the queen of heaven.... Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as pronounced by the people Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country [Great Britain]. That name, as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments, is Ishtar.”*³⁵

Easter really is the same as Ashtoreth or Ishtar, and she is simply the personification of fertility, the great mother goddess, the queen of heaven of ancient pagan religions. As a goddess of fertility, there are many myths about her vital role in the fertility of the earth and about the death of vegetation and the lack of libido in the animal world during her absence.

*“The myth of the abduction of the vegetation goddess is Pre-Greek as evident in the Syro-Mesopotamian mythology of the abduction of the goddess of fertility and harvest, Ishtar (also Ashtar, Astarte and Inanna).... Persephone is an old chthonic [or, underworld] deity of the agricultural communities, who received the souls of the dead into the earth, and acquired powers over the fertility of the soil, over which she reigned.”*³⁶

But, Easter, as celebrated today, has no reference to a female deity. Only the name of Easter refers to a female deity. So how did an ancient goddess' name get connected to the modern so-called Christian celebration of the resurrection of a male savior? To answer that question, we need to travel to ancient Sumer, in southern Babylon, around 3,200 years before Christ.

*“The greatest female deity in Sumer was... Inanna. She was known as Ishtar in Assyria and Astarte or Beltis in Babylon. Inanna's chief city of worship was Uruk, or Erech, in central Mesopotamia; her fame was universal. It extended to Syria, Lebanon, Arabia, parts of Turkey, Persia and ultimately Egypt, Greece and Rome. Ultimately she became Venus, Isis, Diana and of course, Aphrodite.”*³⁷

There was a myth associated with this Inanna – that of her descent to hell, and this myth formed the basis for later Assyrian and Babylonian myths.

*“In both Sumer and Assyria, Inanna and Ishtar are said to have been lovers or wives of the Sun god Tammuz. At one time, most scholars believed that Inanna's descent into hell was prompted by her desire to rescue a lover from a savage and ignominious death. Today, fewer subscribe to this, but the idea still has supporters.”*³⁸

♦ Ishtar. Also known as: Absusu (Sumerian), Abtagigi (She Show Sends Messages of Desire), Agasaya, Ashtart, Ashtoreth, Athar (Arabic), Aya (Babylonian), Banitu (possibly), Belti (Semite), Bisi-Bisi, The Bride, Dilbar (The War-Provoking Evening Star), Gamlat (Babylonian), Gumshea, Hanata (Middle Eastern), Inanna (Sumerian), Innini, Irnini (possibly), Kilili (Queen of Harlots), Meni (possibly), Minu-anni, Minu-ullu, Nin-kar-zi-da, Nin-khar-sagga, Nin-si-anna, Ninkarrak (Sumerian), Ninkasi, Ninlil (Phoenician), Sharis (possibly an ancient name used by the Armenians), Shaushka (Hittite), Shimti (Akkadian; goddess of fate), The Shrieker, Zamaru (Lady of the Islands, Zib (evening star who stimulates sexual desire).

³⁴ Coulter, Charles Russell and Patricia Turner. *Encyclopedia of Ancient Deities*. 2012.

³⁵ Hislop, Alexander. *The Two Babylons*.

³⁶ Wikipedia. “Persephone”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20140723060137/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persephone>

³⁷ Alfieri, Anthony. *The Darkness At The Crucifixion*. 2005. p. 288.

³⁸ *ibid.* p. 289.

Scholars bicker over exactly why Inanna went into hell, but regardless of her motives, upon her return to the land of the living, the earth would again be brought back to life – making this clearly a death and resurrection myth... recognizably called “Easter” and observed in the same season as the supposed Christian festival is today. Is that a coincidence?

Like all religions, beliefs changed over time to fit the mood of the people and the needs of the rulers. What began as the myth of Inanna gradually changed to emphasize her husband:

*“To extol the dramatic new fortunes of the city of Babylon, a new version of Inanna’s descent and Tammuz’ death was invented just for that city [circa 650 B.C.], in which the gods of that city, Bel and Beltis, took over the roles in the Inanna myth. The one major difference seems to be that the male figure, Bel, now assumed the prominent role of the crusader who ventures into hell. Bel dies in hell and the details of his death and Beltis’ rescue, show an even more uncanny resemblance to the events of the Crucifixion.”*³⁹

The ORIGINAL Easter focused on a WOMAN’S descent to the underworld and her return with her formerly-dead husband – which is why it bore her name, Ishtar or Easter. But over time, the story was adapted to keep up with the changing customs and religion of the people and ultimately focused on a MAN’S descent to the underworld and subsequent return to life.

The Passion Of, And The Weeping For, Tammuz

According to ancient mythologies, the vegetation god had been killed by his great enemy, who cut his body into pieces and sent them to all the provinces of the land. Ishtar sought all of his parts with tears and toil to reunite them and bury the corpse.

*“The indications are that all of Babylon and the surrounding cities were involved in **acting out the death and resurrection of Bel** during the New Year’s festival [Nisan 1 – Nisan 12; Passover, you recall, is on Nisan 14]. People **thronged the streets in mock anguish** for three days and **rejoiced at his deliverance** on the third day....”*⁴⁰

In the spring every year, you will see advertisements for passion plays. They are re-enacted at many churches. Like in ancient times, participants today still bleed in their mock anguish and follow other ancient practices of “piety”, such as mourning their dead savior on Good Friday and rejoicing in his resurrection at sunrise of the third day!

*“Buried in their shrines they keep an image of Osiris, over which they mourn in anniversary lamentations, wherein they **shave their heads** so that the ugliness of their disfigured polls may show their grief for the pitiful lot of their king. Also they **beat their breasts, tear their upper arms, and break open the scars of old wounds**, so that the anniversary lamentations may ever renew in their hearts the memory of the death effected by gruesome and pitiable murder. And after performing these rites on set days, next they feign that they are questing for the remains of the mutilated corpse, and rejoice on finding them as if their sorrows were lulled....”*⁴¹

Images of the god were made and dressed, and his burial was re-enacted as women wept for him for days. Sir James George Frazer, considered to be an expert in mythology and religion and one of the founding fathers of modern anthropology, wrote in his famous 12-volume work *The Golden Bough*:

*“At the festivals of Adonis, which were held in Western Asia and in Greek lands, the death of the god was annually mourned, with a bitter wailing, chiefly by women; images of him, dressed to resemble corpses, were carried out as to burial...”*⁴²

And the weeping wasn’t enough. Worshippers had to shave their heads for the death of their king. If women would not consent to that, they were required to prostitute themselves in honor of the god and dedicate the wages of that deed to their queen, Astarte. Frazer continues:

³⁹ *ibid.* p. 291.

⁴⁰ *ibid.* p. 300.

⁴¹ Maternus, Julius Firmicus. *De Errore Profanarum Religionum*.

⁴² Frazer, Sir James George. *The Golden Bough*. 1914. Volume 5. p. 224.

“In the great Phoenician sanctuary of Astarte at Byblus the death of Adonis was annually mourned, to the shrill wailing notes of the flute, with weeping, lamentation, and beating of the breast; but next day he was believed to come to life again and ascend up to heaven in the presence of his worshippers. The disconsolate believers, left behind on earth, shaved their heads as the Egyptians did on the death of the divine bull Apis; women who could not bring themselves to sacrifice their beautiful tresses had to give themselves up to strangers on a certain day of the festival, and to dedicate to Astarte the wages of their shame.”⁴³

Sunrise Services

Khani didn't like to get up while it was still dark, but he eagerly did it for this once-a-year celebration. Every year, in the spring, there was a big celebration at sunrise. Members of his church would gather first at the graveyard to remember the death of the god, and then they would walk through the chilly, moist air by candlelight to the highest peak around. And they would wait. Wait for the lightening sky to finally offer up the rising Sun!

As the rays would break over the hills, Khani would tell his children: “Look to the East! Our savior is rising!” And he and his family would give praise to god for being released from the chains of death and for sharing his life-giving powers with mere mortals.

Shouts of excitement and joy would ring against the buildings of the city and all over the hillside as worshippers reveled in the glorious occasion. For days they had wept at the loss of their savior, and now they would rejoice in his return! Music and songs of merriment would fill the air for hours. Families would share tasty food and treats with their friends and neighbors. God had defeated death yet again and would reign over the earth for another year; thus, the earth, and they, could live another year through the magnanimity and power of god!

“The custom of a sunrise service on Easter Sunday can be traced to ancient spring festivals that celebrated the rising sun.”⁴⁴

The indigenous peoples of Peru had a spring celebration at sunrise before the introduction of Christianity there:

“Eagerly, they watched the coming of the deity, and no sooner did his first yellow rays strike the turrets and loftiest buildings of the capital, than a shout of gratulation broke forth from the assembled multitude, accompanied by songs of triumph, and the wild melody of barbaric instruments, that swelled louder and louder as his bright orb, rising above the mountain range towards the east, shone in full splendour on his votaries.”⁴⁵

But what does God say about these observances?

Ezekiel 8:13-14. *He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater **ABOMINATIONS** that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat **women weeping for Tammuz.***

Here God specifically condemns weeping for Tammuz. This includes passion plays and their related “holy week” celebrations. He calls these things ABOMINATIONS. In other words, things He HATES. But that's not all! Today, just as in those days, people commit even **greater** abominations!

Ezekiel 8:15-16. *Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see **GREATER ABOMINATIONS** than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, **with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.***

⁴³ ibid. p. 225.

⁴⁴ *The New Book of Knowledge*. 1978.

⁴⁵ Prescott, William. *History of the Conquest of Peru*. 1855. Volume 1. p. 69.

These people were at the Lord's house and turned their backs on the true God of the Bible so they could worship the sun! It wasn't enough to worship a false god; they had to go to the house of the Lord to do it! Talk about rubbing someone's face in something! They observe pagan customs in God's house, that is, a church of God... just like almost every Christian in the world today!

Ezekiel 8:17-18. *Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger.... Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.*

Observing Easter is a very serious offense! It is a great way to provoke God to anger and make Him want to deal with you as He did with the ancient Israelites – keeping Easter makes Him want to ruthlessly destroy you! Is this starting to make Easter sound a little less fun? Is it really worth risking God's wrath just so your children can hunt Easter eggs and bite the ears off of chocolate bunnies?

Now we'll look at some of the most common symbols of Easter and discover their true meaning and origin.

*"...at Easter, popular customs reflect many ancient pagan survivals connected with spring fertility rites, such as the symbols of the Easter egg and the Easter hare or rabbit."*⁴⁶

Eggs

Eggs are a fertility symbol, and eggs were used prominently in many pagan fertility rites.

*"...the egg is a powerful symbol of fertility, purity and rebirth. It is used in magical rituals to promote fertility and restore virility; to look into the future, to bring good weather; to encourage the growth of crops and to protect both cattle and children against misfortune. All over the world it represents life and creation, fertility and resurrection... (and) was linked with Easter."*⁴⁷

The egg is one of the symbols of the goddess Venus (Ishtar). According to mythology, she was hatched from an egg that came from heaven. It fell upon the Euphrates River. Venus/Ishtar was conceived when the penis of Osiris/Tammuz, which had been cut off by his enemies, was cast into the river. Because Venus/Ishtar came from an egg, the egg was a sacred Easter offering in ancient Egypt, and they are still considered to be sacred offerings in China and Europe today.

Even though the Roman Catholic Church knew that the egg was a pagan symbol, used in fertility rites by pagans for centuries, they adopted it as a symbol of the resurrection.

*"The church did not oppose this, though many egg customs were pre-Christian in origin, because the egg provided a fresh and powerful symbol of the resurrection and the transformation of death into life."*⁴⁸

Bunnies

Rabbits do not lay eggs, but they breed like, well, rabbits. And that is how they are connected to Easter. They, too, are a symbol of fertility, but they also represent lust.

*"Children's stories in many countries tell how Easter eggs are brought not by a chicken but by hares and rabbits. These long-eared hopping mammals have represented fertility in many cultures because they breed so quickly. In traditional Christian art the hare represents lust, and paintings sometimes show a hare at the Virgin Mary's feet to signify her triumph over temptations of the flesh. Yet as a symbol of life reawakening in the spring – often portrayed as the innocent and cuddly Easter bunny – the rabbit co-exists in many places with the solemn Christian rites of Easter."*⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Encyclopedia Britannica. "Easter Bunny."

⁴⁷ The Encyclopedia of Religion. 1987. p. 37.

⁴⁸ Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 edition. p. 227.

⁴⁹ Readers' Digest Book of Facts. 1987. p. 122.

“Like the Easter egg, the Easter hare came to Christianity from antiquity. The hare is associated with the moon in the legends of ancient Egypt and other peoples... The hare came to be associated with... the beginning of new life in both the young man and young woman, and so is a symbol of fertility and the renewal of life.” (Encyclopedia Britannica, “Easter Bunny”)

Even the Catholic Church reluctantly admits that the bunny is a pagan symbol of fertility:

*“The custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring (and therefore directly related to SUN-worship), gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring... the Easter rabbit lays the eggs, for which reason they are hidden in a nest or in the garden. **The rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility.**”⁵⁰*

The Easter bunny has absolutely nothing to do with Christianity. It is a pagan symbol of fertility and rebirth.

Easter Lilies

A beautiful flower with a wonderful fragrance. To church-goers it is a symbol of purity and a welcome harbinger of spring. But how did this particular flower become associated with Easter? Unger’s Bible Dictionary provides some extraordinary insight.

“Characteristically Canaanite, the lily symbolizes grace and sex appeal...”⁵¹

As a symbol of grace and sex appeal, it has no place in the worship of the True God. It, like the other symbols, was borrowed from the pagan world.

Conclusion

The ancient Israelites never really gave up the pagan gods they had always worshipped. When they realized they needed God’s help, they said they would obey Him, but they never truly repented. Those left in Judah after Israel was carried away to Assyria still served Ishtar and her consort Tammuz.

Jeremiah 44:17. *But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to **burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her**, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.*

They insisted on following these customs, much like mainstream Christianity does today. If you happen to be in a Latin American country during “holy week”, you will see groups of people walking through the streets carrying a puppet image of the god on the cross. They are imitating Ishtar’s search for the parts of Osiris’ body, and then rejoicing at finding them and his being “restored” to life. Very little, if anything, has changed since Nimrod’s time regarding this springtime lamentation and celebration. God condemns these practices in the Bible, instructing His followers not to learn the ways the heathens used to worship their gods (**Jeremiah 10:2, Deuteronomy 12:30**).

It was easier in ancient times to see who was serving the sun-god and who was serving the God of the Bible. But Satan is deceptive, and he has had a few thousand years to improve his tactics. Mainstream Christians don’t know that they are serving false gods; these things are hidden from them. Because they don’t have a love of the truth, they are blinded and deceived (**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**).

But now YOU know the truth about Easter, and now YOU can decide if you will obey God and stop serving His enemy or if you will continue to *“cry aloud and cut yourselves with knives and lancets, till the blood gushes out upon you”* (**1 Kings 18:28**) for the sun-god.

⁵⁰ Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 edition. “Easter”.

⁵¹ Unger’s Bible Dictionary. p. 412.

THE REAL MEANING OF VALENTINE'S DAY

Cards, candies, roses, chocolate, candle-lit dinners, hearts... Every year millions of people exchange cards and give gifts to their beloved. But are these traditions the Christian should observe? Since God is love (1 John 4:16), many will say that this holiday not only reminds us of our love for our spouse, friends, and family, but also of God. But as a follower of God, you are commanded to “try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1), and this holiday is not of God!

The name of the holiday, St. Valentine's Day, owes its name to Valentine, a saint of the early third century, who allegedly helped Christians escape harsh Roman prisons or helped young couples to elope. The legends vary, and the truth is that no one knows for certain which legend (if any) is accurate. Regardless, Valentine became one of the most popular saints in the Middle Ages, a time when “the tradition of courtly love flourished. By the 15th century, it had evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as “valentines”).”⁵²

But this saint's day is celebrated on the same day as an ancient Roman holiday to honor Juno, Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses⁵³ – Rome's “Queen of Heaven”. This feast to Juno was celebrated on February 14, and on the next day the festival of Lupercalia began.

Lupercalia

Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus, and to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture. This festival was intended “to avert evil spirits and purify the city, releasing health and fertility. Lupercalia subsumed Februa, an earlier-origin spring cleansing ritual held on the same date, which gives the month of February (Februarius) its name”⁵⁴.

Lupercus is the god of shepherds, and his priests wore goatskins. To begin the festival, the priests would sacrifice a goat and a dog, and Vestal Virgins prepared cakes to be offered. Then the priests cut thongs from the goat skin; these were called februa.

The females would line up along the path to receive lashes from these whips, which were supposed to ensure fertility in the coming year, as well as prevent sterility and ease the pains of childbirth. The priests would dress themselves in the skins of the sacrificed goats in imitation of their god Lupercus, so it seemed if it was Lupercus running through the streets striking (“blessing”) young women with the bloody strips of goat skin.⁵⁵

It is said that some women would even bare their nakedness to the februa in hopes of obtaining better results.⁵⁶

“To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would

⁵² Wikipedia. “Valentine's Day”.

https://web.archive.org/web/20110624031051/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%E2%80%99s_Day

⁵³ Anonymous. “Valentine's Day Origin.”

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130219060438/http://www.essortment.com/valentines-day-origin-65103.html>

⁵⁴ Wikipedia. “Lupercalia”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20140207131006/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lupercalia>. See also Holiday Symbols and Customs, 4th ed. © Omnigraphics, Inc. 2009.

<http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Lupercalia>

⁵⁵ Holiday Symbols and Customs, 4th ed. © Omnigraphics, Inc. 2009.

<http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Lupercalia>

⁵⁶ Moore, Terry. “The Truth About Valentine's Day”. 2006. p. 5.

each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.”⁵⁷

H. J. Rose adds, “[the priests transformed themselves] into human **he-goats, the very embodiments of sexual vigour** and at the same time of **pugnacity**. It is not by accident that the ancients supposed the performance to take place in honour of a god who might be identified with the Greek Pan, for he too is a he-goat, partly humanised”.⁵⁸

Goats were used because of the symbol of sexual vigor, and Lupercus was also considered a god of shepherds. A dog was used because it was considered to be the flock’s main defender against the wolves. These priests dressed as goats, which were symbols of sexual fertility, but it is God who grants offspring to both man and beast, and it is God who gives rain for the crops of the field (**Deuteronomy 11:16-17**). Goats are also a symbol of pugnacity – of rebellion. And goats are represented in scripture as being disobedient to God and will “go away to everlasting punishment” (**Matthew 25:32-46**).

Februa And February

Februalia was the Roman festival of purification which occurred from February 13-15, and was later incorporated into the Lupercalia celebration. “The festival, which is basically one of Spring washing or cleaning (associated also with the raininess of this time of year) is old, and possibly of Sabine origin. According to Ovid, Februare as a Latin word which refers to means of purification (particularly with washing or water) derives from an earlier Etruscan word referring to purging”.⁵⁹

According to Dr. Leo Ruickbie, author and historian on the occult: “February is named after the ancient Roman purification festival of Februa and is a time to honour the ancestors and **orgiastically invoke the powers of fertility**.... Although February is named after the ancient Roman purification festival of Februa, February is also a month sacred to the gods Mars (as Quirinus, or Romulus) and Juno, the wife of Jupiter”.⁶⁰

Dr. Ruickbie goes on to talk about modern-day Valentine’s Day cards. Many cards today are given anonymously, which conveys the sender’s desire but not his identity. “The message that accompanies such cards is most often in the imperative, Be My Valentine, Be My Love, and so on. The structure of this exchange is remarkably similar to many magical formulae”.⁶¹

Tell me, do you think God would be happy with someone who “orgiastically invokes the powers of fertility” and uses magical formulae to obtain a partner??

The Connection And Change

Some people claim that there is no connection between the Roman festival of Lupercalia and the modern holiday of St. Valentine’s Day. But there is one striking (pun intended) connection.



⁵⁷ Anonymous. “Valentine’s Day.” Accessed March 2013. <http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day>

⁵⁸ Rose, H. J. *Religion in Greece and Rome*. 1959. p. 206.

⁵⁹ Wikipedia. “Februa”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20120210234712/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Februa>

⁶⁰ Ruickbie, Dr. Leo. “February: Imbolc to Terminalia”. Accessed March 2013.

<http://www.witchology.com/contents/february/calendar.php>

⁶¹ *ibid*.

There is a common feature in the pictures above. Can you identify it? It is the ribbon. Nearly every box of candy at this time of year is secured by a red ribbon. Roses and images of Cupid also have red ribbons. Red, of course, to symbolize love and passion. But what else does the color red symbolize? *“Red is the color most commonly associated with love.... It the symbolic color of the heart and the red rose, is closely associated with romantic love or courtly love and Saint Valentine’s Day. Both the Greeks and the Hebrews considered red a symbol of love as well as sacrifice.”*⁶²

So why are there red ribbons on today’s valentines? Why does the red color signify love? *Because it originally signified sacrifices, which were intended by pagan religions to insure fertility!*

Now, let’s think. In the Lupercalia, they had a “lover’s lottery”, the equivalent of modern-day Valentine’s cards. No mention is made of heart-shaped boxes of candy or flowers being given, but is there anything in the ancient Lupercalia celebration that could represent those red ribbons? Well, as a matter of fact, there is.

Those strips of goat skins used by the priests during Lupercalia were dipped in blood, and would, of course, be red from the sacrifice. Thus the red blood of the sacrifice for fertility has become the symbol of love; the bloody strips of goat flesh of the fertility rite have become the red ribbons which secure present-day Valentine’s Day gifts.



The truth is, Valentine’s Day is not so much about love and passion as it is about blood and sacrifice to a fertility god!

The Roman Catholic Church has always adopted the customs of paganism, often changing only the name to “baptize” it into “Christianity”. And they did this with Lupercalia, too. They changed the name to honor a “saint” and eventually did away with the sacrifice, but the lover’s lottery still remains. Their attempt to whitewash this idolatrous practice began in the 4th century. Emperor Constantine had just made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. *“As far back as 496, Pope Gelasius changed Lupercalia on Feb. 15 to St. Valentine’s Day on Feb. 14”.*⁶³ *“During this time a supposed saint named Valentine was chosen as the patron saint of lovers. Soon afterwards the church instituted a lottery of saints to be observed and they also created a new feast – the Purification of the Virgin Mary”.*⁶⁴

So instead of honoring Lupercus, now they honored a supposed Catholic saint. Instead of it being a festival to Juno, queen of the Greek gods, it became a festival of the Catholic idea of Mary. Instead of a lottery of lovers, it became a lottery of saints. But is this REALLY a different festival than the ancient Roman one was? Has renaming the key characters changed the origin and significance of the day the slightest bit?

The truth of the matter is, this festival was always a pagan fertility festival, as Dr. Ruickbie states, *“February is the month of love magic and ancient Pagan sex rituals, so why is it named after a Christian saint?”*⁶⁵ Well, it is named after a Christian saint because the Roman Catholic Church did not want to repent of its evil. It did not want to stop keeping this ancient pagan festival. So it created a saint and a festival and activities, “baptizing” them into the Church, so that it could continue to keep the same old customs under new names. And the laymen, who were not privy to the “secrets” of the priests, were deceived into believing they were honoring God, when in fact they were serving the Devil!

Now I want to examine the most widely used symbol of Valentine’s Day and Love in general – the heart symbol. Is it a Christian symbol? Should you display it even if you aren’t using it for Valentine’s Day traditions?

⁶² Wikipedia. “Red”. Accessed March 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red>

⁶³ Dobler, Lavinia. *Customs and Holidays Around the World*. 1962. p. 172.

⁶⁴ Moore, Terry. “The Truth About Valentine’s Day”. 2006. p. 5.

⁶⁵ Anonymous. “Valentine’s Day Origin.” Accessed March 2013. <http://www.essortment.com/valentines-day-origin-65103.html>

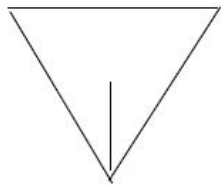
Hearts

There are a few different theories for the origin of the heart symbol. The first is that the heart shape represents the buttocks of Aphrodite (see picture at right). She was the goddess of beauty, and while she was considered to be beautiful all over, many of her worshippers thought that her buttocks were especially beautiful. The Greeks built a temple to Aphrodite Kallipygos, which literally means “goddess with beautiful buttocks”.



The second theory is that the symbol represents the female pubic mound. *“The Sumerian cuneiform is a character text that was widely used in Asia during the 3rd millennium B.C. and the symbol for “woman” in this text, known as “sal,” closely resembles the heart shape (below). Scholars believe that this cuneiform directly depicts the female pubic mound”.*⁶⁶

Cuneiform was always written in angular shapes, so this was the best possible representation of the same ancient heart symbol. And it is quite probable that it grew out of the same ancient symbol representing Aphrodite’s buttocks.



Sumerian symbol for woman.



Ishtar with Sumerian symbol for woman placed at the pubic mound.

The heart shape could also “depict features of the human female body, such as the female’s buttocks, pubic mound, or spread vulva”.⁶⁷ Wikipedia goes on to say that this idea came from Pompeii, where people “conveyed their business via heart-shaped symbols depicting female breasts and sexual organ.... Since few wanted to declare the true meaning of the tattoo it was usually explained as a symbol of love”.⁶⁸

One common representation of the heart is with an arrow piercing the heart. Now, if the heart is really the female pubic mound, buttocks, or spread vulva, what would the arrow represent? So you see, at its core, the heart really is a symbol of sex and fertility. Is this really something you would want your little girl wearing?

⁶⁶ Moore, Terry. “The Truth About Valentine’s Day”. 2006. p. 17.

⁶⁷ Wikipedia. “Heart (symbol)”.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130311075533/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heart_%28symbol%29

⁶⁸ *ibid.*

THE SIMPLE TRUTH ABOUT NEW YEAR'S

Universally, the New Year is a time of renewal. It is a time to “see out” the evil of the past year and “see in” the new year with hopes of a better tomorrow. It is commemorated with fireworks, parades, and resolutions to commit to a better way of living. But what do these celebrations really mean? Where did they originally come from?

How The New Year Was Calculated In Ancient Times

Anciently, there were no nicely printed calendars in various themes to hang on your refrigerator or set on your desk. The common people generally did not know when the month started, as it was one of the jobs of the priests to declare when the new month and new year started.

The orbit of Earth takes *more or less* 365.242 days. The Moon orbits the Earth in *more or less* 29.530588853 days. The orbit of Earth is not perfect, nor is the orbit of the Moon around the Earth, so arriving at a perfect calendar (at least by man's calculations) is impossible. But in ancient times, there were two points in the year from which they could mark and measure time. These days were the vernal and autumnal equinoxes – the only two days in each solar year when the daylight hours and darkness hours are exactly the same.

*“There were two six month calendars in ancient Mesopotamia because that was the only way early astronomers could anchor time with hours of equal length – wait for the equinoxes to arrive and use the hours of those two days for the start of the next six months. They were also the days that pegged the Spring and Fall harvests, the most critical activities of the year for survival. Regardless of whether there were leap years or leap months, by tracking time from equinox to equinox, the calendar could always be kept in precise harmony with the seasons and harvests, with very little instrumentation.”*⁶⁹

Thus in many cultures, there were two new year celebrations – one in the spring, and one in the fall. Later the new year came to be celebrated at one equinox or the other, depending on the culture, and sometimes in the same culture, the date of the new year celebration changed.

*“In Mesopotamia, the rains were important; in Babylon, the Akitu festival was celebrated in Spring, at the first New Moon after the Spring Equinox, in the month of Nisan, whereas in Ur and Uruk the festival took place in the fall as well as in the Spring, in the months of Tishri and Nisan.”*⁷⁰

*“The original Sumerian calendar of 3000 B.C., started the New Year in September/October, in a month named for Tammuz. By the time of the great Babylonian king Sargon I (2350 B.C.), Tammuz was still September/October, but it was now the seventh month of a year that began in Spring at March 21, the equinox.”*⁷¹

Of course, not all cultures celebrated the new year at one of the equinoxes.

*“A variety of other dates tied to the seasons were also used by various ancient cultures. The Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Persians began their new year with the fall equinox, and the Greeks celebrated it on the winter solstice. The early Roman calendar designated March 1 as the new year.”*⁷²

*“The Roman New Year also originally corresponded with the vernal equinox, but years of tampering with the solar calendar eventually saw the holiday established on its more familiar date of January 1.”*⁷³

Many different dates have been used for the new year in history, but most of the world today follows the Gregorian Calendar, celebrating on January 1. This date is closest to the winter solstice, which connects it

⁶⁹ Alfieri, Anthony. *Darkness At The Crucifixion*. 2005. p. 316.

⁷⁰ Lishtar. “Akitu: The Babylonian New Year's Festival”.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140823234913/http://www.gatewaystobabylon.com/religion/akitu.htm>

⁷¹ Alfieri, Anthony. *Darkness At The Crucifixion*. 2005. p. 316.

⁷² Brunner, Borgna. “A History of the New Year: A move from March to January”

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/newyearhistory.html>

⁷³ Andrews, Evan. “5 Ancient New Year's Celebrations”. Published December 31, 2012.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140706114424/http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/5-ancient-new-years-celebrations>

with Christmas. As you'll see in a moment, its placement in the year isn't the only thing that connects it with Christmas.

Origin Of The Twelve Days Of Christmas

A modern popular Christmas song talks about the Twelve Days of Christmas, but this originally wasn't a Christmas observance!

*"The arrival of spring season was celebrated lavishly in Assyria and Babylonia for 12 days in what is documented as the Akitu (Sumerian A-ki-ti) Festival or New Year Festival."*⁷⁴

This twelve-day festival had a special significance to the Babylonians:

*"The twelve day long Babylonian New Year festival was a microcosm of the civil year that fixed the fates of men and the nation for the next twelve months. There was a proportion, a ratio, between the twelve days of the Babylonian New Year and the twelve months of the actual year."*⁷⁵

Thus each day represented a month to the Babylonians. While many modern celebrations of the new year last only one day, the day is still seen as setting the stage for the year, a day after which individuals should pattern their lives all year long.

Activities Of The New Year/Twelve Days

The twelve days were often regarded as being "outside of time". These days were seen as unfit for work; all civil business and religious ceremonies came to a standstill.

*"In order to symbolize that, throughout this period, the life of the community is virtually at an end, the king, who is normally regarded as the vessel and steward of it, is temporarily deposed, another person reigning in his stead."*⁷⁶

With a temporary king in place, during days that were unfit for work, the people were free to do as they pleased, as the normal rules were relaxed during this period. The mood was always one of inversion: masters served their slaves, and mistresses served their handmaidens.⁷⁷ It is a time of chaos or darkness, and the temporary king was referred to as the Lord of Misrule.⁷⁸

The temporary king, in many cases, was a prisoner who was later sacrificed as a scapegoat, carrying with him all the evils of the previous year, thus purifying those still living. Purification rites were an important part of the twelve day festival. Families would clean and reorganize their homes, make new clothes, reconcile differences, and wish each other good fortune in the coming year. Driving out evil and purifying yourself is a necessary custom, and one of the best ways to drive out evil is with noise – be it by blowing a horn, dancing with loud music, roaring from behind an animal's mask, or shooting off fireworks.

*"Noise is regarded as effective at ALL times against the powers of darkness. Many primitive peoples ring bells or strike gongs at eclipses, thinking thereby to drive away the demonic monsters who are believed to be swallowing up the sun or the moon; in medieval Europe church bells were pealed during thunderstorms as a means of repelling malevolent spirits."*⁷⁹

But it's important also, if you are to have a good year, to *drive in* the good.

"Driving out the evil is only one side of the New Year ceremonies. Equally important is it to drive in the good; and the curious thing is that much the same methods are used for the latter as for the former. Just as you can beat out evil, so you can beat in good.... In the Tyrol, for example, all fruit trees are violently beaten with clubs or staves, and sometimes even pelted with stones, at the beginning of the Twelve Days between

⁷⁴ Aprim, Fred. "Akitu (the New Year Feastival) and Newruz (Nuroz)." Published April 27, 2004. <http://nineveh.com/Akitu%20and%20Newruz.html>

⁷⁵ Alfieri, Anthony. *Darkness At The Crucifixion*. 2005. p. 360.

⁷⁶ Gastor, Theodor. *New Year: Its History, Customs and Superstitions*. 1955. p. 14.

⁷⁷ *ibid.* p. 111.

⁷⁸ *ibid.* p. 17.

⁷⁹ *ibid.* p. 47-48.

Christmas and Epiphany; and the same usage is reported from France, Germany, and Belgium.... Sometimes it is not merely the trees or plants that are struck, but human beings themselves.”⁸⁰

Wishing others good fortune and exchanging gifts were also good ways to drive in the good. People often exchanged gifts such as eggs to symbolize new life, honey or sweets to ensure peace, gold, silver, or money to ensure prosperity, and lamps or candles for a year filled with light.⁸¹ People also jumped through bonfires, symbolizing a purification by fire from sickness and the last remains of evil in their bodies.⁸²

The Babylonians believed that their dead kinsmen visited them during the festival, so lights and food were left out for them on the New Year.⁸³ Paying proper homage to your dead ancestors was, of course, another way to ensure health and wealth in the coming year.

One More Symbol Of The New Year

*“No symbol of the incoming year is so familiar as the New Year Babe.... In ancient Greece, it was customary at the great festival of Dionysus to parade a babe cradled in a winnowing basket. This was taken to symbolize the annual (or periodic) rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility.”*⁸⁴

Wait a minute! That sounds almost exactly like the Christmas babe! And the reason they are the same is because the Church was practically forced to adopt the symbol because it was too popular to overcome.

*“So common, in fact, was the popular custom of representing the new life that the Church was eventually obliged to take it over. When the solstitial festival of the new light was transformed into Christmas – the birthday of the “Light of the World” – the New Year Babe was transformed with it into the familiar figure of the Christ Child.”*⁸⁵

*“New Year’s Day became a Holy Day in the Christian Church in 487 AD, when it was declared the Feast of the Circumcision.”*⁸⁶

The Meaning Of The New Year

It’s customary, before welcoming the new year, to formally dispose of the old. There can be no new life until death is banished, no health until all sickness is removed. And these beliefs are an integral part of New Year celebrations in every part of the world.

*“Often, the dispatch and ‘funeral’ of the Old Year is followed, in short order, by his ‘resurrection’.”*⁸⁷

In ancient Babylon, a central part of the twelve-day festival was the re-enactment of the creation legend. Their narrative focuses on Marduk, who “*had routed the monsters of chaos and had built out of a “world without form and void” an orderly world, and had created humankind*”⁸⁸. But his job was difficult as the order slowly degraded to chaos every year, and Marduk again had to battle the forces of darkness and chaos to restore life to Earth.

*“As a rule, the ceremony [seeing out the old year] is performed in a literal manner, an effigy of the dread power being solemnly paraded through town or village and then buried, drowned, or burned.”*⁸⁹

Theodor Gastor shares a few anecdotes of modern practices of seeing out the old year:

⁸⁰ *ibid.* p. 37-38.

⁸¹ “New Year”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20140922000331/http://www.novareinna.com/festive/newyear.html>

⁸² Aprim, Fred. “Akitu (the New Year Festival) and Newruz (Nuroz).” Published April 27, 2004. <http://nineveh.com/Akitu%20and%20Newruz.html>

⁸³ Gastor, Theodor. *New Year: Its History, Customs and Superstitions*. 1955. p. 52.

⁸⁴ *ibid.* p. 67.

⁸⁵ *ibid.* p. 69.

⁸⁶ “New Year”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20140922000331/http://www.novareinna.com/festive/newyear.html>

⁸⁷ Gastor, Theodor. *New Year: Its History, Customs and Superstitions*. 1955. p. 23.

⁸⁸ Count, Earl, Ph.D. and Alice Count. *4000 Years of Christmas: A Gift From The Ages*. 1997. p. 25.

⁸⁹ Gastor, Theodor. *New Year: Its History, Customs and Superstitions*. 1955. p. 19.

...Something very similar takes place, at the present day, in several parts of Morocco, where the “funeral” of “Father Aishor” forms a prominent feature of the great Ashura, or New Year, Festival. Throughout the preceding ten days, from the moment when the new moon first becomes visible, young girls scratch their faces in mourning and send up the continuous wail “Father Aishor has died!” On the day of the festival itself, they take a date and, after smearing it with water, saffron and pounded roses, wrap it in calico and then solemnly inter it or throw it down a well. This represents the formal disposal of the old year....

In Rumania, it is customary, when all life seems to have gone to sleep, for parties of girls to go out of the village carrying, under a pall, a miniature coffin in which is deposited a clay image called Kalojan, or Beautiful John. Strewn with mint, basil, and other aromatic herbs, the coffin is subsequently buried at a lonely spot, and for two days the girls keep singing dirges... On the third day, however, the coffin is disinterred, and the “resurrected” Kalojan is led back to the villages amid great rejoicing.

Ceremonies of this kind are the last lingering survivals of what was once a widespread method of “seeing out” the old year and “seeing in” the new; **for the burial and resurrection of little figures representing the Spirit of the Year or the Lord of Fertility is well attested as a seasonal rite in ancient times.**⁹⁰

But where did these practices originate? From Babylon. Gastor gives a succinct summary:

The Babylonian New Year festival was characterized also by the performance of a mummers’ play representing the **passion and resurrection of the god of fertility**. This figure, most familiar to us as **Tammuz, was identified with Marduk**, deity of the city. He was portrayed as divested of his clothing and imprisoned in the great mountain of the netherworld, where two watchmen kept guard over him. During his absence, the city fell into uproar and disorder, and fighting took place within it – a clear projection into mythology of the saturnalian revels and the ritual combat which elsewhere mark the end of the year. His consort Beltis (“the Goddess”) went in search of him, like Demeter and Persephone, and he was eventually retrieved.

Another feature of the ceremonies was the celebration of a so-called “sacred marriage” between Marduk and his consort Zarpanitu. **The purpose of this ceremony was to increase fertility**; and it is probable that the parts of bride and groom were played respectively by a sacred prostitute and by the king....

Lastly, the festival was marked by a **sumptuous parade** of the divine images.... There is reason to suppose that the formal religious ceremonies were accompanied by festivities of a more popular character. These took the form of a kind of **carnival, distinguished by the wearing of masks and the performance of mummeries**....⁹¹

Marduk/Tammuz was in the underworld for 3 days, from the 5th to the 8th days of the ceremony.⁹² The passion, death, and resurrection of Marduk/Tammuz at the New Year connects the New Year with Easter, while many of the other customs connect it with Christmas, and a few connect it with Halloween.

Conclusion

As you should see by now, nearly all the customs of New Year celebrations have come from pagan Babylonish traditions: parades, carnivals, chasing away demons and evil with noise and/or fireworks, exchanging gifts, the babe, passing through the fire, the death and resurrection of a year/god. What part of any of this is Biblical?! None of it!

⁹⁰ Gastor, Theodor. *New Year: Its History, Customs and Superstitions*. 1955. p. 22-24.

⁹¹ *ibid.* p. 109-111.

⁹² Alfieri, Anthony. *The Darkness At The Crucifixion*. 2005. p. 300.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

What about national holidays like Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Mothers' and Fathers' Day, and the rest? There is no Biblical prohibition against them. They are not religious celebrations; most do not come from paganism. They come from important events in the history of the nation, and actually, observing national holidays is Biblically-sanctioned.

Esther 9:24-26. *Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur.*

Letters were sent throughout all the provinces to establish this new national holiday. Every year the Jews were to observe these 2 days with resting and feasting to remember their triumph over their enemies, when their sorrow was turned to joy:

Verses 21-22. *To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly, As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.*

While national holidays, like Purim, are Biblically-sanctioned, it does not mean that they are binding on new covenant Christians. It's not a sin to celebrate them, but it's not an obligation to keep them either. Paul says, if you are asked to go to a feast, and you are inclined to go, then go.

1 Corinthians 10:27. *If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.*

Paul is specifically talking about meats offered to idols here, but national observances are something like meats offered to idols. In other words, it shouldn't bother your conscience if you go or not. True Christians don't care if they keep Thanksgiving or not. If you want to keep the civil holiday with someone that doesn't believe as you do, then go and have fun. If you don't want to go, then that's fine, too. Keep the national holidays if you want to. But as you come out of the world, you will probably find yourself feeling less and less a part of the world, and less inclined to celebrate with it – even when religion is not an issue.

DREAMCATCHERS AND PICTURES OF JESUS ARE A SIN!

Nathaniel Burson

Surely that picture of Jesus on your wall, or the angel statuettes your sister gave you, or that dreamcatcher over your child's bed isn't an idol! After all, you're not bowing down to it, or praying to it, are you?? Of course not!

How does GOD feel about it? Does it really matter how YOU feel? If you're right, then you are allowed to have pictures and representations of other gods in your home, as long as you don't actually WORSHIP them. At best, this means you get to have some trinkets decorating your home.

But if I'M RIGHT, **they will ROB YOU of your salvation!** I DARE to make the bold statement that if you knowingly keep a dreamcatcher in your home, GOD WON'T BE THERE!! Don't you think it's worth investigating and finding the REAL TRUTH of this matter, and not the way that seems right to a man, the way that seems right to YOU, the way that leads to DEATH!

Let us take, for example, a cute little statue of Buddha. It's totally harmless, perhaps a souvenir from your trip to China. Surely that's not going to interfere with **your** faith, is it? I mean, YOU know that it's just a lump of porcelain. YOU know that it's not an idol TO YOU, so it must be alright!

First, I chose this example because it is very clear. Your cute little Buddha IS an idol. Maybe you don't bow down before it, to worship it, but it IS an idol. Where in the Bible does it give you permission to purchase idols from the heathen and place in your own home, just for "looks"?

Why would you even WANT to have an idol like the heathen? You should HATE their idols – the very SIGHT of their idols should make you ANGRY. You should want to destroy and utterly crush every idol on earth – not buy one for a souvenir of your trip!! Do you think GOD would have one of those disgusting idols in HIS home? Does **He** think they're "cute"??

Deuteronomy 12:3. *And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.*

Exodus 32:20. *And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.*

2 Kings 23:6. *And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.*

God has the idols ground to powder, and FED to the people who worshiped them! He doesn't keep them around for His knick-knack shelf! **How DARE you!** The idol is a disgusting, unclean thing, whether YOU serve it or not, God hates it, and hates the devil that it represents!

Leviticus 26:30. *And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.*

That's how GOD feels about idols! Yes! You are free to believe any ridiculous thing you wish, and justify having that Buddha in your home ALL YOU WANT, but GOD hates it, and He hates you having one! Whether you "serve" it, or not, it is UNCLEAR to Him!

2 Corinthians 6:16. *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,***

Why on earth would you even WANT an idol in your home? Why? Is there nothing else in the world you could place on your knick-knack shelf instead? Why must you have THAT unclean filth? God doesn't even like you touching it!

Isaiah 52:11. *Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.*

Now that you've been told, as long as you have that statue of Buddha there, God WILL not be with you. I'm not making this up; see for yourself. Believe what you read there – or reject it!

Deuteronomy 23:12-14. *Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad: And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee: **For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: THAT HE SEE NO UNCLEAN THING in thee, and turn away from thee.***

You've just read scriptures that call idols UNCLEAN things. It doesn't matter whether or not you think this idol troubles your conscience or not! Maybe you ARE mature enough so that this idol doesn't bother you; but GOD ISN'T! Because if God walks into your house and sees it, it offends HIM! Just because it IS, what it is! A statue of His enemy!

Deuteronomy 7:25. *The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, **nor take it unto thee**, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. **Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house**, lest thou be a **CURSED THING LIKE IT**: but thou shalt utterly DETEST it, and thou shalt utterly ABHOR it; for it IS a cursed thing.*

That is God's CLEAR COMMAND NOT to take an idol from another person, and bring it into your home – EVEN if you just want to melt it down for the silver and gold! Even if you AREN'T going to worship it, it is CURSED, and God commands you to DETEST it and ABHOR IT! And if you disobey and reject that command of God, YOU are cursed JUST LIKE IT IS!

And yet, regardless of this, **just like your fathers**, many people STILL justify themselves. Ask yourself; does this next scripture describe you? Remember, God broke your yoke, and forgave you, and you said "I will not transgress", at baptism. Have you kept that promise?

Jeremiah 2:20-24, 35. *For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, **I will not transgress**; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, **playing the harlot**. Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me? For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, **yet thine iniquity is marked before me**, saith the Lord GOD. **How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? ...Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.***

Can you believe that? Israel, while practically in the process of offering their children to Baal, said, "I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim"?!! Then they had the colossal nerve to say, "Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me", and "I have not sinned"!

Could this be YOU? When Israel played the harlot, they did so with pagan gods. Do YOU play the harlot with your statue of Buddha? And then turn to God and say, "I have not sinned! After all, I'm not worshiping it!"?

I leave that to you to answer. All that I say, is that your cute little statue is a sin. And God hates it, and will not walk in your house as long as it is there. And that's just one example, with a few scriptures! What about a dreamcatcher?

A dreamcatcher is an IDOL. It is used for an idol by millions across the country. Some say the dreamcatcher was invented solely for tourists, that it hasn't been worshiped by the Native Americans for thousands of years – but see, that doesn't matter! WHEN they invented it doesn't matter, what matters is that it is an idol now!

Here is a quote from a dream catcher ad I copied off the internet:

"Dream catchers originated from the Native Americans. There are many versions of the legend describing their birth, but they all agree that dream catchers should be hung over the head of the bed, and that good

dreams will filter through the web and drop from the feathers onto the slumbering person, whilst bad dreams will become hopelessly entangled in the web and remain trapped until they melt away with the first rays of dawn."

They claim it protects you from bad dreams! That it catches the evil thoughts and prevents them from giving you bad dreams! And so you hang it over your bed, and what has it become! An idol! An idol that protects you from evil spirits!

And so what will GOD say to you when you turn to Him and need help for some calamity in your life? I happen to know exactly what He will say to you. Do you? He'll say...

Judges 10:14. *Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let THEM deliver you in the time of your tribulation.*

God doesn't even like to have the NAME of these gods spoken! He has given clear commands on the subject! Maybe you haven't noticed, but God REALLY HATES IDOLS! He doesn't think they're cute, or harmless! And if YOU believe otherwise, you do so without ANY scriptural authority whatsoever!!

Joshua 23:6-7. *Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left; That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; **NEITHER make mention of the name of their gods, NOR cause to swear by them, NEITHER serve them, NOR bow yourselves unto them:***

Notice that God isn't commanding that you don't mention their names AND swear by them, AND serve them, AND bow down to them, making a complete WORSHIP package! Most people who want to keep their pagan idols try to prove that, so that they can keep them, but it's just not true!

God doesn't want you to do ANY PART OF IT! He doesn't want you to mention their very names, OR swear by them, OR serve them, OR bow down to them! That's what the scripture just said, as you can see!

Exodus 23:13. *And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and **make no mention of the NAME of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.***

So, it should be a simple matter now for you to apply this thinking to a picture of a long-haired Jesus hanging on your wall! Even the most devout "Christian" will admit that that ISN'T what Jesus looked like. It is a picture of ANOTHER JESUS, a FALSE Jesus, a picture of one of Satan's idols he wants to pass off as Jesus! And again, GOD HATES IT, so WHY SHOULDN'T YOU??

2 Corinthians 11:3-4. *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth **ANOTHER JESUS**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

Since no one knows what the REAL Jesus looks like, the picture you have is of ANOTHER JESUS whom Paul, and we, do NOT PREACH! And thus it is a heathen idol which should be burned, and the people who own them should be forced to eat the ashes! That is how GOD dealt with that problem! God doesn't WANT you to have a picture of HIM in your home! And I can prove that!

Deuteronomy 4:14-16. *And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it. Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; **for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:** Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and **MAKE YOU A GRAVEN IMAGE**, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,*

God said that the children of Israel DIDN'T SEE HIM that day, because He KNEW they would make an idol of whatever they saw! And HE DIDN'T WANT a picture, or a statue, of Him in their homes!! That's how GOD FEELS about HIS PICTURE in YOUR HOME!!

Now, I've said enough; any thinking person can apply this to crosses, statues of angels, pictures of the last supper, wizards, dragons, hearts, four-leafed clovers, fortune cookies, wreaths, elves, horoscopes, and anything else that represents the enemies of God!

Destroy them all if you want God to be near you! Because I think we all know how HE feels about them now!

Psalms 16:4. *Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.*

So, FILL your house with Buddhas and dreamcatchers and pictures of Jesus if you want! But *I*..., well,

Psalms 101:3. *I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*

THE CHRISTIAN CROSS IS PAGAN!

That the cross is a Christian symbol is accepted without question by practically every professing Christian. It is revered and all but worshiped by nearly everyone. But no one ever stops to wonder why they reverence the cross. No one asks where the practice originated, or wonders if they should wear crosses around their necks and have them scattered around their homes. Everyone just takes it for granted that this is what Jesus wants us to do. But is it? Does the Bible encourage that practice? For that matter, did Jesus even die on a cross? What does the Bible say?

Did Jesus Die On A Cross?

The word “cross” in your Bible is translated from the Greek word “stauroo”. So when you read the phrase “the cross of Christ” in your Bible, the original phrase is “the *stauroo* of Christ”. What does that phrase mean – is “the *stauroo* of Christ” a T-shaped cross like we are familiar with today... or was it something else?

*“Both the noun and the verb stauroo, ‘to fasten to a stake or pale,’ are originally **to be distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two beamed ‘cross.’** The shape of the latter had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as **the symbol of the god Tammuz ... the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the ‘cross’ of Christ.**”⁹³*

So according to this respected authority, the original instrument of Jesus’ death is DIFFERENT from the popular image of the two-beamed cross shaped like a T! In fact, the cross is a symbol of one of the enemies of God – Tammuz, a Babylonian sun-god. The ancient letter Tau, the initial of Tammuz, looks like the English lower-case ‘t’, which makes a very clear cross. It was this cross that was brought by pagans into the church and was later ADOPTED to stand for the “cross” of Christ. According to that quote, the Tau cross revered by so many today had its origin in ancient Chaldea – Babylon!

*“What the ancients used to signify when they used the word stauros, can easily be seen by referring to either the Iliad or the Odyssey. It will there be found to clearly signify **an ordinary pole or stake without any cross-bar.** And it is as thus signifying **a single piece of wood** that the word in question is used throughout the old Greek classics.”⁹⁴*

So when the classical Greek writers used the word *stauroo* or *stauros*, they never meant a T-shaped cross, but rather a simple pole – a straight piece of wood or stake **WITHOUT A CROSS BAR!**

*“The side light thrown upon the question by Lucian is also worth noting. This writer, referring to Jesus, alludes to ‘That sophist of theirs who was fastened to a skolops’ which word **signified a single piece of wood, and not two pieces joined together.**”⁹⁵*

The ancient historians agree that the instrument of Jesus’ death was a single piece of wood, an upright pole or stake. THIS is the instrument Jesus died upon – NOT the two-beamed cross seen in every church! This is why Peter says that Jesus “*bare our sins in his own body on the tree*” (1 Peter 2:24), a strange statement if Jesus was nailed to a two-beamed cross, but fitting perfectly with the true meaning of the Greek word *stauroo* – a single pole!

Another Biblical picture of what the so-called “cross” looked like is revealed in

John 3:14. *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.*

So Jesus was to be lifted up *in the same fashion* as Moses lifted up the brass serpent. What was that brass serpent lifted up on? Was it a cross?

Numbers 21:9. *And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole...*

And in the exact same way, Jesus was lifted up – not on a cross, but on a *stauroo*... a POLE or STAKE!

⁹³ Vine, W.E. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. “Cross, Crucify”.

⁹⁴ Parsons, John Denham. *The Non-Christian Cross: An Enquiry Into the Origin and History of The Symbol Eventually Adopted as That of Our Religion*. 1896.

⁹⁵ *ibid.*

The Many Forms Of The Cross

The cross takes many forms today. All denominations, including completely non-Christian religions, have their own preferred form. Surely, Jesus died only once; even if it *were* on a cross, it could only have been on one type of cross; so what do all these other crosses represent? Surely Jesus wasn't crucified on an Eastern Orthodox or a Maltese cross; so why do Christians revere them today?

*"In their temples, in their houses, on their images, etc., the worshippers [of pagan gods] were accustomed to see the peculiar Cross, or Crosses, dedicated to each [individual deity]. Bacchus had his, Serapis his, and so forth."*⁹⁶

In ancient times, each false god had his own cross. And just like ancient times, each Catholic saint, in addition to the Pope and Mary, has his own form of the cross. These crosses don't commemorate Jesus! They were devoted to Catholic saints!

Surely, Jesus could not have died on ALL of the crosses you see in modern Christianity! He died only once and on one specific instrument, but no one seems to care which of these forms you wear around your neck! None of those crosses commemorate Christ because Christ died on a stake! Instead, they all commemorate ancient false gods!

The Antiquity Of The Cross

The Catholic Encyclopedia admits that *"the sign of the cross, represented in its simplest form by a crossing of two lines at right angles, greatly antedates, in both the East and the West, the introduction of Christianity. It goes back to a very remote period of human civilization."*⁹⁷

The Catholic Church – which is THE authority on the history of mainstream Christianity – admits that **the very symbol of their religion antedates the founding of their religion.**

*"The sign of the cross, represented in its simplest form by a crossing of two lines at right angles, greatly antedates, in both the East and the West, the introduction of Christianity. It goes back to a very remote period of human civilization."*⁹⁸

*"Only, do not let the Christians be selfish, and in their use of it exclude the Heathen, as the Heathen had the Cross at any rate 1,000 years before them."*⁹⁹

So what exactly did the cross that was revered by ancient pagans *at least 1,000 years before the birth of Christ* look like?



Pre-Columbian crosses found in Colombia. Both of these artifacts picture a cross superimposed on the sun! This is very likely what Emperor Constantine saw in his vision.

⁹⁶ Brock, Mourant. *The Cross: Heathen and Christian*. 1879.

⁹⁷ *Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1908 edition. Volume 4. Page 517.

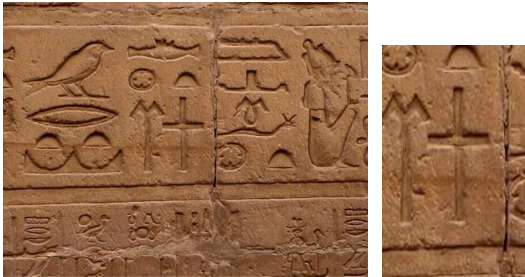
⁹⁸ *ibid.*

⁹⁹ Brock, Mourant. *The Cross: Heathen and Christian*. 1879.

*“From the most remote antiquity the cross was venerated in Egypt and Syria; it was held in equal honour by the Buddhists of the East; and, what is still more extraordinary, **when the Spaniards first visited America, the well-known sign was found among the objects of worship in the idol temples of Anahuac.** It is also remarkable that, about the commencement of our era, the pagans were wont to make the **sign of a cross** upon the forehead in the celebration of some of their **sacred mysteries.**”¹⁰⁰*



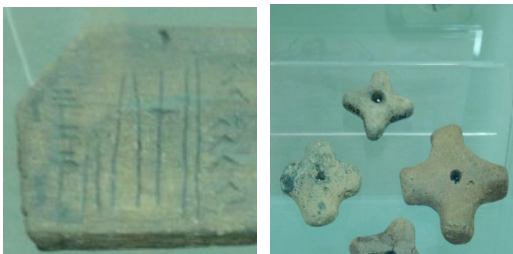
Pre-Columbian swastikas found on a clay vase from Colombia. To the Hindus and other cultures, the swastika was used to represent the sun, life, power, strength, good luck, etc.



Hieroglyphs in an ancient Ptolemaic Egyptian frieze. The Ptolemaic period extends from 305 to 30 B.C., so obviously this cross cannot possibly commemorate Christ. The enlargement on the right shows that it is exactly like the Latin cross so commonly seen today.



Latin-styled cross on the head of a bull. From Belarus, dated 400 to 300 B.C.

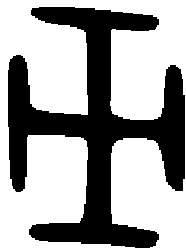


Latin-styled cross and Greek (mathematician's) crosses from Belarus, dated between 700 and 500 B.C.

¹⁰⁰ Killen, W. D. *The Ancient Church*. Page 316.



Etruscan pendant with swastika symbols. From Italy, dated between 700 and 650 B.C.



Symbol of the Chinese wū (巫 “shaman; witch, wizard; magician”). These figurines, which are dated circa 8th century BC, were worn on the top of the head, identifying the person as a wu.

Note the connection between this symbol for “shaman” (a cross with potents) with the Western heraldic symbol of magicians, the cross potent ⚔ .¹⁰¹



Assurnasirpal II from ancient Nimrud; he reigned from 883 to 859 B.C. Above his rod is a “ring with wings” or “winged disk” which has a Maltese cross in the middle of it. The cross was associated with the sun, and more specifically, the total eclipse of the sun.



¹⁰¹ Wikipedia. “Wu (shaman)”.

https://web.archive.org/web/20121129083509/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_%28shaman%29



Maltese cross on a necklace worn by the Assyrian king Shamshi-Adad V. This stele is dated 824 B.C. What we now call the Maltese cross was very prominent during the Assyrian period.



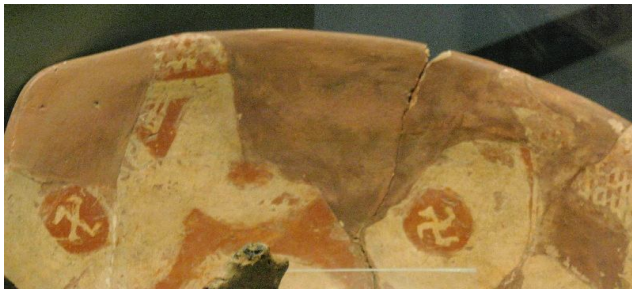
A tablet from around 900 B.C. depicting the Babylonian sun-god Shamash (seated on the right) holding emblems of his authority, a staff and ring, and the king with two attendants on the left. In the center, on an altar, is a large 4-point sun image, with additional small wavy rays between the points.



An artifact unearthed in the holy of holies of the pagan temple in the Canaanite city of Hazor (also spelled Hatzor), in northern Israel, that dates to 1,400 B.C. It is described as follows: *“a basalt offering table, pillar-shaped, with a carved symbol of the storm god Baal on its side. That symbol was a circle with a cross in the center”*. The symbol of Baal was the circle with a cross in the center!! Notice that this artifact’s design matches perfectly the first two images you saw of a cross superimposed on a sun!



From Estonia, dated to be from the Iron Age. Regardless of the dates of the Iron Age, it can safely be said that they are pre-Christian crosses.



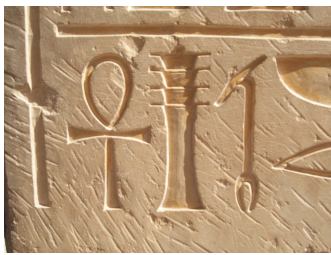
From Bulgaria, dated to the Neolithic Age. Regardless of the exact dates of the Neolithic Age, the pottery here is definitely pre-Christian.



Found in northern Afghanistan, dated to be between 2,000 and 1,500 B.C. Again, this is a cross inscribed in a circle (which represents the sun).



Ritual vessel from Egypt during the First Dynasty, circa 2,000 B.C. This is a representation of the ankh, a sign of life, power, strength, and good luck to the Egyptians. The ankh is acknowledged by most historians to be a precursor to the so-called “Christian” cross, which as you’re starting to see, has nothing whatsoever to do with Christ!



The Djed pillar (middle symbol in the left image) is “one of the more ancient and commonly found symbols in Egyptian mythology. It is a pillar-like symbol in hieroglyphics representing stability [or power, strength]. It is associated with Osiris, the Egyptian god of the afterlife, the underworld, and the dead. It is commonly understood to represent his spine”.¹⁰² The Djed was often used in representations with the Pharaohs as staffs and head dresses. The Djed could be the earliest form of the cross.

Historians all agree that these crosses have a common origin. They are all signs of life, rebirth, or the death of that pagan religion’s messiah. They all predate Christ, being used **at least 15 centuries before Christ!** Then the Catholic Church adopted them, simply renaming these common pagan idols and calling them Christian symbols, and treating them in the same manner as the heathens had treated them under the old names.

What Does The Cross Mean?

To non-Christian people, the cross does not symbolize the death of Christ. To them it symbolizes something entirely different: it is a sign of life to them. The cross is a type of fertility symbol, representing not only physical life but also a “future life”.

*“The cross represents the Tree of Life, the **age-old fertility symbol**, combining the vertical male and horizontal female principles, especially in Egypt....”¹⁰³*

The cross is a fertility symbol, well-known in ancient Egypt and in other cultures. The cross is found even in the “cradle of European civilization”:

*“Leaving the land of Shem and passing to the tents of Japhet, **we are welcomed at the very cradle of European art and civilization [Greece] by the cross**. It may have been brought with other traditions by those who wandered into Greece after the dispersion of Babel, or it may have been transmitted from Egypt, or Phoenicia, but **the same promise of ‘future life’ was symbolized**.”¹⁰⁴*

The cross, regardless of its form, “is an emblem of great antiquity, and it is sometimes called ‘the sign of life.’”¹⁰⁵

The cross is a sign of life throughout the world, and everywhere it is used as a charm, to ward off “evil” spirits.

*“The **sign of the cross has been a symbol of great antiquity, present in nearly every known culture**. Its meaning has eluded anthropologists, though its use in funerary art could well point to a **defense against evil**.”¹⁰⁶*

The pagan historian Cicero wrote a tract defending a victim condemned to death by a cross; he considered the cross such a vile instrument of execution, that the very word “cross” should not be mentioned by decent people!

*“...**the very word ‘cross’ should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes and his ears**. For it is not only the actual occurrence of these things or the endurance of them, but... **the mere mention of them, that is unworthy of a Roman citizen and a free man**.”¹⁰⁷*

¹⁰² Wikipedia. “Djed”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20121021053135/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Djed>

¹⁰³ Koster, C. J. *Come Out Of Her My People*. 2004.

¹⁰⁴ Seymour, William Wood. *The Cross in Tradition, History, and Art*. 1898.

¹⁰⁵ Maurice, Thomas. “The Indian Antiquities”. 7 volumes. 1793-1800.

¹⁰⁶ Snyder, Graydon. *Archaeological Evidence of Church Life Before Constantine*. 1985.

¹⁰⁷ Cicero. “Speech before Roman Citizens on Behalf of Gaius Rabirius, Defendant Against the Charge of Treason.” Translated by William Blake Tyrrell. Section 16.

So how can billions of Christians exalt this instrument of horrible torture as a sign of life? The only person it truly honors is the person who murdered Christ – Satan the devil. This is the symbol of his one and only success over God... or so he thinks.

*“In Heathen China, as in Christian Europe, [the cross] is used as a charm.”*¹⁰⁸

The Christians interpreted it as a defense against evil – a purpose for which this symbol had already been used for thousands of years by the enemies of God. To them it was a lucky charm – no different than a rabbit’s foot, four-leaf clover, or horseshoe – for warding off evil spirits. These people were full of superstitions! **And they brought those superstitions into Christianity with them!**



*“Over and over again, Christians who sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, prove to be victorious over the evil one, and the evil pseudo-powers which still operate in our broken and divided world, under the attack of the evil one. Whenever and wherever you feel the presence of evil, just sign yourself with the sign of the Cross: the pseudo-power of evil will disappear on the spot.”*¹⁰⁹

Brock says that the cross was interpreted and used in Christian Europe JUST LIKE it was in heathen China! There was NO DIFFERENCE in how it was used between these two continents! In both places, by heathen people and by supposedly “Christian” people, it was used as a charm to ward off evil. Priests today hold out the cross during exorcism to make the evil spirit leave, just as you see in horror films people forming a cross using both index fingers to signify to their attacker, “Stay away! Don’t harm me!”

*“[The sign of the cross], referred to as theirs by the Christian writers of the second and third centuries, is said to have had a place before our era in the rites of those who worshipped Mithras, if not also of those who worshipped certain other conceptions of the Sun-God....”*¹¹⁰

The sign of the cross comes from antiquity when people worshiped the Persian sun-god Mithras and other sun-gods. Even then it was used to ward off unwanted spirits and defend against evil of all kinds.

The Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics says, “With the 4th century magical belief began to take a firmer hold within the Church.” As with a magic charm, simply making the sign of the cross was thought to be “the surest defence against demons, and the remedy for all diseases”.¹¹¹ Superstitious use of the cross continues to this day. How many times have I seen people cross themselves multiple times when walking past a church or a monument of a saint or when simply driving on a dangerous road!

The superstitious use of an image or object is pagan. It doesn’t necessarily mean that the object itself is pagan, as many things found in nature are often used as charms – for example a rabbit’s foot or a four-leaf clover. The Bible records that even objects which God commanded to be made were to be destroyed if they were used in a superstitious way.

2 Kings 18:4. *He [Hezekiah] removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.*

God had commanded Moses to make the brazen serpent. The people had spoken against God’s manna and were bitter, so God sent fiery serpents among them to bite them and teach them a lesson. When they repented, Moses prayed for them, and God commanded him to make a fiery serpent on a pole so that anyone who had been bitten could look on it and be healed. But the Israelites later started to treat the brazen serpent like a good-luck charm and were honoring it instead of God. So Hezekiah, a righteous king, destroyed it so that the people could no longer worship it.

¹⁰⁸ Brock, Mourant. *The Cross: Heathen and Christian*. 1879.

¹⁰⁹ “The Illuminator: The Newspaper of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburg”. June-September 2004. Volume 25, Number 130. p. 1.

¹¹⁰ Parsons, John Denham. *The Non-Christian Cross: An Enquiry Into the Origin and History of The Symbol Eventually Adopted as That of Our Religion*. 1896.

¹¹¹ Hastings, James. *The Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics*. 12 volumes. 1908-1927.

Thus, even if an object does not have a pagan origin, if it is used in a pagan way, it becomes something pagan to you (**1 Corinthians 8:7**). And if God feels this way even about non-pagan things, imagine how He feels about symbols that can be directly traced to the religion of His greatest enemy!

Further proof of the pagan origin of the cross is the recorded evidence of the Vestal Virgins¹¹² of pagan Rome having the cross hanging on a necklace, and the Egyptians doing it too, as early as the 15th century B.C.! The Buddhists, and numerous other sects of India, also used the sign of the cross as a mark on their followers' heads.

*"The Shari were another Eastern or Northern people, against whom the Egyptians waged a successful war, principally in the reigns of Osirei and his son, the great Rameses [born circa 1,300 B.C.].... They frequently had a **small cross suspended to a necklace, or to the collar of their dress**. The adoption of this last was not peculiar to them; it was also **appended to, or figured upon, the robes of the Rot-n-no**; and traces of it may be seen in the fancy ornaments of the Rebo, showing that **it was already in use as early as the 15th century before the Christian Era**."*¹¹³

FIFTEEN CENTURIES BEFORE CHRIST!! The cross cannot represent Christ because it existed before He lived on Earth! If a company today registers a logo, it is theirs. It represents them. Anyone who displays it supports that company's work and ideals. If another company tries to use it, they will be charged with plagiarism, which is theft! That logo can NEVER represent the second company, because it was already registered and used by the first. It is THEIR accepted and recognized symbol. Its meaning CANNOT be transferred to another company!

Similarly, the cross was a pagan symbol, used LONG before Christ, to represent the sun-god, life, power, etc. It was used by pagans in their rituals which God hates, used to honor false gods whom God considers ABOMINATIONS. It has ALWAYS represented these things, and people who try to use it to represent Christ are falling into the same trap that Ancient Israel fell into – revering the symbols of pagan gods just because it was the "popular" thing to do! And anyone who learns this and doesn't change will be treated just as God has always treated idolaters.

The Cross Is An Idol!

*"The cross was **widely known in pre-Christian times** as an emblem that was a **well-known Heathen Sign**."*¹¹⁴

Would God want you to use this "well-known heathen sign" to remember Him? This symbol that commemorates Tammuz, Chronos, Bacchus, and other sun-gods? Think about it! Would HE want to be in the same category as these false gods?

Deuteronomy 12:30-31 (BBE). *After their destruction take care that you do not go in their ways, and that you **do not give thought to their gods**, saying, How did these nations give worship to their gods? I will do as they did. **Do not so to the Lord your God: for everything which is disgusting to the Lord and hated by him they have done in honour of their gods: even burning their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.***

God said NOT to do as the heathen do! He wants people to worship Him in a DIFFERENT way! He commanded you NOT to learn the way of the heathen (**Jeremiah 10:2**), but instead to LEARN the difference between the holy and the unholy, between the clean and the unclean, between Him and false gods!

Ezekiel 44:23 (BBE). *And they [the priests] are to make clear to my people the division between what is holy and what is common, and to give them the knowledge of what is clean and what is unclean.*

God does not want you to follow the heathen or worship Him the way they worship their gods. The heathen have made images of their gods, and God says that He HATES that! You have seen many proofs in this article that the cross is an idol! It has always been one, and even though it has been renamed, **it is still** an image of a false god and a false religion!

¹¹² Koster, C. J. *Come Out Of Her My People*. 2004.

¹¹³ Wilkinson, John Gardiner. *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians*. First Series. 1837. Volume 1. p. 375-376.

¹¹⁴ *Unger's Bible Dictionary*.

*“What is now called the Christian religion has existed among the ancients, and was not absent from the beginning of the human race until Christ came in the flesh, from which time **the true religion, which existed already, began to be called Christian.**”*¹¹⁵

Read that again! What St. Augustine called the true religion, which existed **ALREADY, began** to be called Christian after Christ came in the flesh!! Modern Christianity is simply a **RENAMING** or **RELABELING** of an ancient pagan religion! This is Satan’s best trick – he perverts the truth and puts God’s name on it to give it credibility so people will be deceived and believe lies. But it’s time **YOU** learned the truth!

Think about that. If you took a blood-stained, sun-worshipping temple with its priests who were performing human sacrifices, and painted the temple white, put a cross on top, and called the priests Christian, would it make them Christian? What about taking the red devil and putting him in white robes so that he looked like Christ – would that make him Christ? Would that make him even the least bit righteous? **NO!** Of course not! The devil by any other name or image is still the devil. Even so, a pagan church by any other name is still a pagan church, and a pagan idol is still a pagan idol *even if you call it the cross of Christ!*

What Augustine called “the true religion” – the religion from which all religions (except the religion of the Bible) have descended – is the worship of the sun-god. And this religion has been in existence since the beginning of the human race. Modern Christianity has adopted **THIS** religion and its practices, often changing them no more than by replacing the pagan names with Christian-sounding names, but the **TRUE** God is **NOT** the center of this religion!

*“The cross thus **widely worshipped**, or regarded as a ‘sacred emblem’ [by Modern Christianity], was the **unequivocal symbol of Bacchus, the Babylonian Messiah**, for he was represented with a head-band covered with crosses.”*¹¹⁶

Bacchus is simply another name for Tammuz. Bacchus is the Greek name, and Tammuz is the Tyrian or Canaanite name. Each culture has its own name for him.

*“The symbol for Tammuz is what the mystery religions call the mystic ‘T.’”*¹¹⁷

Tammuz was supposedly a resurrected sun-god. *“Tammuz... in Mesopotamian religion, god of fertility embodying the **powers for new life** in nature in the spring.”*¹¹⁸

Thus, adoring the cross is worshiping fertility gods. And if you have a cross, you are telling God that you would rather worship the gods of fertility than the True God who made the earth and seas and all that is in them! Plain and simple – having a cross is honoring Tammuz!

Ezekiel 8:14-15 (BBE). *Then he took me to the door of the way into the Lord’s house [or, temple] looking to the north; and there women were seated **weeping for Tammuz**. Then he said to me, ‘Have you seen this, O son of man? you will see **even more disgusting things [abominations] than these.**’*

This Tammuz, whose sign is the T, is revered by mainstream Christians today! They have his sign in their Churches and homes, on their Bibles, on their clothing, and around their necks! They carry Tammuz’s sign everywhere with them! **AND GOD CALLS IT AN ABOMINATION!** It doesn’t matter if this cross has been in your family for generations; **IT IS STILL AN ABOMINATION!!** It doesn’t matter if you wear it to honor Christ even though it’s a pagan symbol; **IT IS STILL AN ABOMINATION!!** No matter what your reason for keeping it in your home – **IT IS STILL AN ABOMINATION!!**

Luke 6:46. *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

If you truly desire to follow God and worship Him in a way that He finds pleasing, you **CANNOT** be following the customs of the heathen (**Jeremiah 10:2**)! Jesus said you are to learn **OF HIM** (**Matthew 11:29**), **NOT** from the people! If you don’t learn from Jesus, then you don’t have the spirit of Christ, and **YOU ARE NONE OF HIS** (**Romans 8:9**)!!

¹¹⁵ St. Augustine. *Retractationes*. I, 13.

¹¹⁶ Seymour, William Wood. *The Cross in Tradition, History, and Art*. 1898.

¹¹⁷ Maurice, Thomas. “The Indian Antiquities”. 7 volumes. 1793-1800.

¹¹⁸ *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 11th Edition. Volume 14. p. 273, 532.

*“In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life **borrowed** by the Christians and **interpreted** in the **pagan manner**.”¹¹⁹*

Notice this was a pagan symbol borrowed by the Christians and interpreted in the same pagan manner! They understood that it was a pagan symbol – and revered it as such! They completely ignored God’s commandment not to worship Him like the heathen gods were worshiped! They chose to disobey God’s commandment and continue in their rebellion against Him! And this sign is seen today in every so-called Christian Church – be it Catholic or Protestant! And if YOU own or revere the sign of the cross, you are worshipping God like He is a heathen god – in direct rebellion against the God you claim to serve!

The Chi-Rho

The chi-rho cross is a little unique among the forms of the cross because it is the so-called “monogram of Christ” being the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. It is also called the Labarum in some works.

The chi-rho is an ancient symbol, used millenia before Christ. A few centuries before Christ, it was used by Egyptian King Ptolemy III, who reigned from 246 to 222 B.C. It is pictured on his coins.

“The Chi-Rho, as a symbol, was in use long before Biblical Christianity entered the scene. The ‘X’ (Chi) represented the Great Fire or Sun and the P (Rho) was for Patah or Pater (Father).... It is a composition of X and P (Chi and Rho), which means ‘Sun’ or ‘Fire’ and ‘Father’, rendering, ‘Father Sun’ or ‘Great Father Sun’.”¹²⁰

The chi rho cross was a pre-Christian symbol, the name and meaning of which points to a pagan sun-god! It was used by several solar deities as their symbol, but specifically, the Babylonians used it as an emblem of their sky-god, as Cooper states:

“The labarum was also an emblem of the Chaldean (Babylonian) sky-god and in Christianity it was adopted...”¹²¹

Notice! Christianity ADOPTED this symbol. That means it was already in use, and it represented another god! Usually when someone borrows a name or a symbol, it is because they already agree with and support what that name or symbol represents. People who wear pink ribbons, for example, are showing that they support “The Cure”. A bumper sticker for a sporting goods store shows that the car owner likes what that store sells.

Similarly, Christianity adopted this symbol because they already agreed with the paganism behind the symbol. They had already “bought” the lies paganism offered. They had already rejected the true God, and were supporting Tammuz, so it was only natural that they wear his symbol, too.

Egyptologist Sir Flinders Petrie said that the chi-rho was the emblem of the Egyptian god Horus thousands of years before Christ.

“An identical symbol to the Chi-Rho has been found inscribed on rocks dating from 2,500 B.C. Sumeria, and was interpreted as ‘a combination of the two Sun-symbols’ – symbols of the ancient shining ones.”¹²²

The chi-rho, despite what people claim, has been used thousands of years before Christ to honor sun-gods of many cultures. It has been used to signify “good fortune”, and interestingly, before its adoption by Christianity, it was known as the monogram of Chronos! NOT the monogram of Christ!

*“Before it became the monogram of Christ, the chi rho was the **monogram of Chronos (whose name also begins with a Chi-rho in the Greek spelling), the god of time**, and an emblem of several solar deities.... The chi rho was used in hermetic alchemical texts to denote time.”¹²³*

¹¹⁹ ibid.

¹²⁰ letusreason. “The Christian Cross?”

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130420223657/http://thechristiancross.blogspot.com>

¹²¹ Cooper, J. C. *An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Traditional Symbols*. 1987.

¹²² Gardiner, Philip. “The Skull and Crossbones: The Untold Story of the Templar Shining Ones.” Accessed October 2011. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/sociopolitica/sociopol_masonsknightstemplar06.htm

Calling it the “monogram of Christ” is a lie, for it NEVER was the monogram of the true Christ!

*“The symbol chosen by Constantine to express his adherence to Christianity is the Chrismon, formed by superimposing the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek, X (chi) and P (rho).... Additionally, **the Chrismon was evocative of solar symbolism, meaningful to both the Christians and to pagan followers of the cult of Sol Invictus**, particularly numerous in the army. With Constantine the Chrismon spread throughout the empire, definitively becoming the most important symbol of the Christian faith.”¹²⁴*

Like everything else the early Catholic Church did, the Chrismon was an attempt to meet the pagans half-way by fusing an obvious sun-worship symbol with a nominally Christian one; thus appeasing the pagans, swelling the empire, strengthening the Church, and offending no one but God.

¹²³ Emick, Jennifer. “Chi-Rho”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20111005211647/http://symboldictionary.net/?p=2043>

¹²⁴ Placard at the Roman Colosseum in an exhibit on Constantine. 2013.

WHY WOULD YOU EVEN WANT TO WORSHIP A CROSS?

Nathaniel Burson

This is not an article about why *The Christian Cross Is Pagan*. That has been amply proved in that article by Crystal. Nor is this an article on why, even if the cross WEREN'T pagan, you shouldn't worship it. Because having pictures or symbols, even of the TRUE Jesus, are a SIN! And God does not want you even revering a picture of HIM!

Deuteronomy 4:12, 15-16 (BBE). *And the voice of the Lord came to you out of the fire: the sound of his words came to your ears but you saw no form; there was nothing but a voice. ... So keep watch on yourselves with care; for you saw no form of any sort ... So that you may not be turned to evil ways and make for yourselves an image in the form of any living thing, male or female,*

God said that when He, PERSONALLY spoke to them from Mt. Sinai, that they did NOT see Him! That He made CERTAIN that they saw NOTHING but a cloud on that day, and made sure that they COULD NOT SEE ANY PART OF HIM, because He knew that if they saw ANYTHING they would corrupt themselves and make an image of it! And He did not want even a picture or symbol of HIMSELF to be revered!

But as I said, this article is not about that, that subject is amply covered in my article "*Pictures of Jesus Are A Sin!*" No, this article is for people who understand both – but just don't really care. Or who think that it's OK to use this symbol as long as we use it, "for Jesus". This article demands of you WHY would you even WANT to worship the cross! Even if it WEREN'T pagan, and even if God DIDN'T hate it! Why would you WANT to? Think about it!

The last day of Jesus' life was an UNPLEASANT one. Read any of the gospels. It was NOT a happy day, and Jesus did NOT enjoy it.

Matthew 26:37-38. *And he ... began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: ...*

Was He happy? No! And nothing had happened to Him yet! This was how He felt about what was ABOUT to happen to Him!

Isaiah 53:3-4. *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

After that night in the garden He was shamed, spit upon, slapped, beaten, bruised, whipped until He bled, and then forced to carry the instrument that was to cause His death – the cross, as you suppose – weighing perhaps a hundred pounds or more, clear out of town to the gruesome "place of the skull" (Golgotha). And that was just before noon! Before the day really got into swing!

Matthew 27:46. *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

Then after those things, He was nailed to the cross, bleeding and dying, fed vinegar and gall (a very, VERY unpleasant taste), poked with a spear until He bled... you get the idea. All while His enemies who were killing Him mocked and ridiculed Him. He was suffering. He felt alone. Then He died.

Now think about this. Imagine that this was YOU. Because He was a PERSON. He had FEELINGS. He HAS feelings today, not unlike your own since you are made in His image. So imagine that YOU went through all this. Imagine that YOU suffered and died. Imagine that YOU spent a day in agony, and died on this cross.

How would you FEEL about that day? Would it be one of your FOND memories? Seriously! Wouldn't you like to put it behind you, and move on – not to dwell on it day in and day out, and see in every Church the instrument of your painful death proudly displayed for all to see? Much less those churches who display a grotesque statue of your dying self, gasping your last breath in pain, nailed to that same cross? Would that cheer you up?? Be honest!

Maybe you've been hurt. Most people have, at some time or another. Maybe you broke your arm. Maybe you had your appendix out, or had a painful tooth extraction. Maybe you were even stabbed, or in a disfiguring car accident. Maybe you lost an arm. So now imagine. Imagine if all your friends made necklaces of an appendix or a bloody tooth or a smashed up car or half an arm and wore them prominently.

Or better yet! Maybe they all took bloody pictures of you at the scene of the accident, and put them in several prominent places in their home. And every time you visited them, everywhere you looked, all your friends had this thing that reminded you of the enormous suffering and pain you went through. **How would you feel about this?**

Don't just shove the thought away! How would you FEEL about being reminded CONSTANTLY about your pain? I, for one, would feel that it was, at best, in poor taste. At worst, downright cruel of people who were supposedly my friends reminding me of the single worst day of my life, a day I would just as soon forget. Isn't that how YOU would feel?

Hebrews 12:2. ... *who for the joy that was set before him **ENDURED the cross, DESPISING the shame,** and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Jesus endured the cross! He did not enjoy it! And He DESPISED the shame involved! The only reason He went through with it was because of the JOY that would come AFTERWARDS! Weymouth renders it "*looking with contempt upon its shame*" – with CONTEMPT He looked upon the shame of the cross! And yet practically every church in the world LOVES and viciously DEFENDS their right to fondly gaze upon that cross, and glory in that shame that Jesus looks on with CONTEMPT, and DESPISES!

But now let's back up for a moment, and ask ourselves a different question. As Jesus was suffering and dying on the cross, out of all the people in the universe, who do you suppose was enjoying himself the MOST that day? Who was partying and celebrating as our Lord was gasping his last painful breath?

And who is it, do you suppose, who feels he won a great victory that day – one of the few victories of his long struggle as the adversary of God? And who is it, do you suppose, who would ENJOY looking at a gory picture of the death of Jesus? Who would feel HAPPY, and want to see the instrument that killed him exalted, on the top of nearly every church on Earth? There is only one such being. And of course... his followers.

Psalms 22:7-8. *All they that see me **laugh me to scorn:** they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.*

Satan felt this way when he saw Jesus dying, and every time he sees a cross he is reminded of that joyous victorious feeling! It is his most fond memento! **Psalm 22** is a prophecy of the last few hours of Jesus' life, and during that time where you suppose Satan was? Where do you suppose his devils were? Off somewhere, sleeping? Or right there on the front row, savoring every gasp of pain that slipped from Jesus' lips??

Psalms 22:12-13, 16-17. *Many bulls have compassed me: **strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths,** as a ravening and a roaring lion. ... For **dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me:** they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.*

Dogs in the Bible represent the wicked (**Philippians 3:2, Revelation 22:15**), as do the bulls of Bashan (see **Amos 4:1**). And in this case they both represent Satan and His demons. Compassing Christ about, gaping, laughing, and mocking Him. And they do that to this day! For they still have the cross, and still have a suffering Jesus on a cross to remind them of that glorious day!

And in Satan's favorite Church, the one at Rome, you will find the most gory pictures of his greatest enemy – Jesus Christ – being tortured on a Cross. I could show pictures of some of the violent, gruesome portrayals of Jesus you'll find in Catholic churches, but you already know what I mean. Jesus HATES being reminded of that. He did NOT enjoy that last day of his life!

But Satan DELIGHTS in it! He breaks into a SMILE every time he sees a cross, and ESPECIALLY a cross with a blood-dripping, defeated-looking, totally-helpless Jesus!

So why do YOU enjoy it! Why do YOU like having a cross around! Why do you have one or two, or perhaps a few dozen, crosses and crucifixes around, to remind you of the worst day of God's life?? Because YOU have been deceived by Satan! Because you are following HIM, not God! And so YOU ENJOY watching God die! Because you think that is a GOOD thing! Because you would have helped crucify Him had you been there!

And right here you object, strenuously no doubt, saying "I DO NOT! I keep the cross around to remind me that Christ died for my sins!" ... or some such excuse. And that's all it is – an excuse. WHY do you call Jesus your "Lord", and refuse to DO what He SAID (**Luke 6:46**)! God did NOT tell you to revere His cross, or keep replicas around your house!! God did NOT once, not even HINT that you should do that! EVER! That was an idea that sounds good to YOU! But an idea that was invented by SATAN! He wants to teach YOU to rejoice in the death of God as much as HE does!

But you are NOT SAVED BY JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS!

Blasphemy? No! Bible!

Romans 5:10. *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life.***

We are NOT saved by His death! Billions of people have died, millions of them martyred in more painful ways than Jesus was! THEY SAVED NO ONE! We are saved by Jesus NOT because He died on a cross! We are saved BECAUSE HE LIVES! It is because HE was RESURRECTED that we too may obtain life!

John 11:25. *Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the LIFE:** he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

He said He IS THE RESURRECTION, and that HE IS THE LIFE! And if you believe in Him, YOU will have LIFE! He didn't say "I am the death, remember my cross!" No! For He is not a God of the dead, He is a God of the LIVING!

Luke 20:38. *For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.*

Had the death on the cross been the end of the story, WE WOULD BE DEAD in our sins! Without His resurrection there is NO LIFE! The cross would have been WORTHLESS without the resurrection! His death DID NOT SAVE YOU!

Revelation 1:18. ***I am he that liveth, and WAS dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.***

He is not dead! He WAS! But today, He is not hanging on a cross! He was for a few hours, ONCE, a long time ago! In the most unpleasant experience of His eternal life, He suffered and died for our sins. Christ's death was NECESSARY, and something we remember in a *yearly* memorial, but it was one event! One page of history that is best left turned! One unpleasant experience in God's life that paid for our mistakes, but that was all! It's done! He died ONCE, but He lives forever!

But as long as you honor His DEATH, you rejoice with His adversaries that He DIED, you accentuate His moment of greatest weakness, and you celebrate His agony with Satan the Devil and all the great churches who follow Him, their spiritual lover, into the great lake of fire and destruction! Because you know what? He isn't dead. He is alive. He was dead for a few days. He is alive forever. Which do you suppose is most important?

And now finally, let me put it to you this way. The summation of these three articles is this, and it comes from the tales that Satan himself wrote. For Satan is the God of this world (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). Satan is the "*prince of the power of the air*" (**Ephesians 2:2**). This is HIS society, the society that follows HIM. He inspires Stephen King novels and Harry Potter. He inspired Homer and Aesop. He inspires Charmed and the Exorcist. Or do you think righteous God invented those lovely tales? And so since Satan is the one telling these tales, who is the greatest evil? Why, God! To Satan, God is the worst evil imaginable. And so in his tales, the evil ogre, the horrible monster, the 3-headed dragon, they represent a twisted satanic impression of God.

And so in these tales, these twisted horror stories you find on your TV and in classic literature, what use is a cross against an evil monster? Why, it wards off vampires! It protects against all manner of evil influences and spirits! All you have to do to make that evil monster leave is make the sign of the cross! Or carry a cross over your heart! **Because if you have a cross over your heart, it keeps the monster from influencing your mind!**

What does God want to do? Have access to your mind to influence it! He wants you to obey Him FROM THE HEART! But guess what? Having a cross over your heart DOES prevent that “monster”, as Satan calls Him, from entering your heart!

God WILL NOT enter a heart with a cross over it! Because that cross is a symbol of His enemies, and wearing it means that you have SURRENDERED to those enemies! And He HATES the cross! And God will NOT be in your house if you have a cross – so yes! A cross WILL ward off that so-called “evil spirit” that wants to enter your heart and write His laws there (**Hebrews 10:16**).

Having crosses is a DIRECT violation of the second commandment (**Exodus 20:4**). It isn’t really a symbol of Him at all, but a symbol of Satan, and even if it WERE a symbol or picture of Him, He wouldn’t want you revering it (see my article, “*Pictures of Jesus are a Sin*”), and finally – the very THOUGHT of worshiping the instrument that killed God is absurd!

Hebrews 6:4, 6. *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened ... If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

Jesus doesn’t WANT crucified again! He doesn’t want you to even SYMBOLICALLY crucify Him again! He did NOT enjoy the experience the first time! If you have a cross in your home, you are putting Jesus to an OPEN SHAME and crucifying Him all over again every time you look at it!

So keep your cross! Ward off God’s spirit! Invite the evil creatures who love to watch the shame of Christ into your home! That same shame which Jesus despised, and which, if you were a TRUE Christian, one who acted as Jesus acted (**1 John 2:6**) and thought as HE thought (**Philippians 2:5**), you would despise also!

If you want to ward off Satan’s spirit however, you don’t need an outward symbol of any kind. If you want a sign that you are GOD’S and not Satan’s... then all you have to do is obey God.

John 13:35. *BY THIS shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

By THIS – not by a cross on your wall, but by THIS – men will know that you are a follower of GOD! THAT is the sign that you love God. Not some cross or some other **physical** symbol. And if you want to show you love God, He gives explicit instructions:

John 14:15. *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Carrying a cross breaks Commandment #2. You cannot show you love God as long as you own a cross. But maybe that’s what you want! And so yes! If you want to ward off God’s spirit, buy HUNDREDS of crosses. Better yet, buy crucifixes – really rub God’s suffering in! Make it as vivid and gross as possible! Make it so graphic that it almost makes you want to throw up when you see that wretched Being dying on the cross!

But if you want to invite God’s spirit in your home, then take those crosses – the ones on your wall, the ones on your clothes, the ones in your jewelry box, the ones on the cover of your Bible... burn them! destroy them, grind them to powder and show God that you HATE the symbols of His enemies as much as He does!

Otherwise the day will come when God will do to you what I just recommended you to do with your crosses. Think about that.

THE CHRISTIAN FISH



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.

All of these pictures show the same thing, varied in form a little bit. The mitre worn by the Pope is, in essence, the very same mitre worn by pagan priests hundreds of years before Christianity!

“The fish headdress of the priests of Ea [a Sumero-Semitic God] later became the miter of the Christian bishops.”¹²⁵

Layard documents in his work on “Nineveh and Babylon” that the priests of the Philistines worshipped Dagon, a fish god, by wearing a fish costume during their religious services (compare Figures 3 and 4 with Figure 8).

*“The wide open jaws of the fish that sit on the head of the man at Nineveh are **the unmistakable counterpart of the horns of the Pope’s mitre at Rome**. It was in the East at least five hundred years before biblical Christianity.”¹²⁶*

The Roman Catholic Church adopted this pagan symbol just as they have done with many other pagan symbols and practices. Even Protestant Christians are deceived about the true meaning of the fish symbol, which you see on their Bibles, around their necks, on their cars, and in their homes. Do YOU use this symbol? If so, then you NEED to know just what it TRULY means!

The Male Aspect

The fish symbol itself is an ancient one. Long before Christ, the fish symbol has been associated with several gods and goddesses including Aphrodite, Atargatis, Dagon, Ephesus, Isis, Delphine and Pelagia.¹²⁷

When associated with the Assyro-Babylonian god Dagon, who has been equated with the Egyptian god Osiris, the fish symbol *“may be considered as a phallic symbol as seen in the story of the Egyptian grain god Osiris, whose penis was eaten by fish in the Nile after he was attacked by the Typhonic beast Set”*.¹²⁸

The Babylonian writer Berossus wrote in the 3rd century BC about Oannes. Unfortunately his original works have been lost, except for some fragments. A historian of the first century BC gives the following account from Berossus’ work:

...Oannes, whose whole body (according to the account of Apollodorus) was that of a fish; that under the fish’s head he had another head, with feet also below, similar to those of a man, subjoined to the fish’s tail. His voice too, and language, was articulate and human; and a representation of him is preserved even to this day.

*This Being... gave them an insight into letters and sciences, and arts of every kind. He taught them to construct cities, to found temples, to compile laws, and explained to them the principles of geometrical knowledge. He made them distinguish the seeds of the earth, and shewed them how to collect the fruits; in short, he instructed them in every thing which could tend to soften manners and humanize their lives. From that time, nothing material has been added by way of improvement to his instructions.*¹²⁹

Oannes and Dagon (meaning “the fish On”) are identical. Oannes is simply the Babylonian name, and Dagon is the Persian name. They are both the same fish-man, or merman.

*“This Oannes is the Mizraimite On, and the Hebrew Aon... derived from a root signifying “to illuminate”. Aon... in Scripture is called Beth-Aon, the house of On, as well as by its translation **Beth-Shemesh, the house of the Sun**.”¹³⁰*

Oannes or Dagon or Beth-Shemesh, or Shamash, are all the same: they are solar gods, depictions of Satan himself! And just as Dagon *“is fallen on its face to the earth, before the ark of Jehovah” (1 Samuel 5:4)*, the images of Beth-Shemesh will be broken, and his house shall be burned with fire (**Jeremiah 43:13**).

¹²⁵ Cooper, J. C. *An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Traditional Symbols*. 1979. p. 15.

¹²⁶ “The Cross and Christianity”. Accessed March 2013. <http://cross-paganorchristian.blogspot.com/>

¹²⁷ Wikipedia. “Ichthys”. <http://web.archive.org/web/20130216213432/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ichthys>

¹²⁸ Wikipedia. “Dagon”. <https://web.archive.org/web/20130124040714/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dagon>

¹²⁹ Berossus. *Fragments of Chaldean History: From Alexander Polyhistor*. “Of the Cosmogony and Deluge”.

¹³⁰ Baring-Gould, Sabine. *Curious Myths of the Middle Ages*. 1876. p. 495.

The Female Aspect

Much of the time you will see the fish symbol in association with goddesses, which all represent the “Great Mother” – Semiramis, the “Queen of Heaven”.

*“His [Oannes’] semi-piscine form was an expression of the idea that half his time was spent above ground, and half below the waves. In precisely similar manner the Semitic moon-goddess, who followed the course of the sun, at times manifesting herself to the eyes of men, at others seeking concealment in the western flood was represented as **half woman, half fish**, with characteristics which make her **lunar origin indisputable**. Her name was Derceto or Atergatis. On the coins of Ascalon, where she was held in great honor, is figured a goddess above whose head is a half-moon, and at her feet a woman with her lower extremities like a fish. **This is Semiramis**, who, according to a popular legend, was the child of Derceto. At Joppa she appears as a mermaid.”¹³¹*

*“It may seem difficult at first sight to trace the connexion between the **moon**, a **water-goddess**, and a **deity presiding over childbirth**; yet it is **CERTAIN** that such a connexion does exist. The classic Venus was born of the sea-foam, and was unmistakably one with the moon. She was also the goddess of love, and was resorted to by barren women.”¹³²*

This Queen of Heaven, Semiramis, has as her symbols the moon, water, and fertility. But it gets better...

“The fish symbol has been used for millennia worldwide as a religious symbol associated with the Pagan Great Mother Goddess. It is the outline of her genetalia... The Moon is the heavenly body that has long been associated with the Goddess, just as the sun is a symbol of the God.”¹³³

“The “Great Goddess” was portrayed elsewhere with pendulous breasts, accentuated buttocks and a conspicuous vaginal orifice, the upright “vesica piscis” which Christians later adopted and rotated 90-degrees to serve as their symbol.”¹³⁴



Notice, the fish symbol is the outline of her genitals. The Mother Goddess is the very picture of sensuality, and her symbol is of necessity a sexual symbol.

*“Ask any neo-pagan and they will explain **the most common interpretation is its derivation from a simplified image of a woman’s womb or vagina....** There are a few other Pagan goddesses and gods that manifest themselves as dolphin, fish or other sea creature, and most seem to be **connected with sexuality**. The oval outline of a fish was compared to the shape of the womb, and both ‘fish’ and ‘womb’ homophonously shared the ancient Greek word ‘delphos’.”¹³⁵*

¹³¹ *ibid.* p. 495-496.

¹³² *ibid.* p. 500.

¹³³ “The Pre-Christian History of the Fish Symbol”. Accessed March 2013. <http://www.glbet-el.org/textesfrancais/Fish.htm>

¹³⁴ American Atheists. “Fish”.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20080211215554/http://www.atheists.org/christianity/fish.html>

¹³⁵ “Meaning of the Pagan Fish Symbol”. Accessed March 2013. <http://www.seiyaku.com/customs/fish/fish-pagan.html>

This fish or oval symbol has been found in many places in the ancient world in connection with mother-goddesses. Here are just a few examples documented on the Religious Tolerance website.¹³⁶

- In China, Great Mother Kwan-yin often portrayed in the shape of a fish.
- In India, the Goddess Kali was called the “fish-eyed one”.
- In Egypt, Isis was called the Great Fish of the Abyss.
- In Greece the Greek word “delphos” meant both “fish” and “womb”. The word is derived from the location of the ancient Oracle at Delphi who worshipped the original fish goddess, Themis. The later fish Goddess, Aphrodite Salacia, was worshipped by her followers on her sacred day, Friday. They ate fish and engaged in orgies. From her name comes the English word “salacious” which means “lustful or obscene”. Also from her name comes the name of our fourth month, April. In later centuries, the Christian Church adsorbed this tradition by requiring the faithful to eat fish on Friday – a tradition that was only recently abandoned.
- In ancient Rome Friday is called “dies veneris” or “Day of Venus”, the Pagan Goddess of Love. To this day, Romance languages call “Friday” the “Day of Venus”: Spanish *viernes*, Italian *venedi*, etc.
- Throughout the Mediterranean, mystery religions used fish, wine, and bread for their sacramental meal.
- In Scandinavia, the Great Goddess was named Freya; fish were eaten in her honor. The 6th day of the week was named “Friday” after her – Freya’s Day.
- In the Middle East, the Great Goddess of Ephesus was portrayed as a woman with a fish amulet over her genitals.

The history of this symbology goes at least as far back as the 6th century BC:

*“Eleanor Gaddon traces a “Cult of the Fish Mother” as far back as the hunting and fishing people of the Danube River Basin in **the sixth millennium B.C.E.** Over fifty shrines have been found throughout the region which depict a fishlike deity, a female creature who “incorporates aspects of an egg, a fish and a woman which could have been a primeval creator or a mythical ancestress...”¹³⁷*

The fish symbol was so widespread in the ancient pagan world that the early Church could not overcome its power. So, they adopted it instead. It “*was so revered throughout the Roman empire that Christian authorities **INSISTED on taking it over, with extensive revision of myths to deny its earlier female-genital meanings...** Sometimes the Christ child was portrayed inside the vesica, which was superimposed on Mary’s belly and obviously represented her womb, just as in the ancient symbolism of the Goddess.*”¹³⁸

The fish symbol, the custom of eating fish on Friday, and the association of the symbol with the goddess were all taken over by the early Church from Pagan sources. Only the sexual component was removed.

Was Jesus Associated With Fish?

Some of the disciples of Jesus were fishermen. Another was a tax collector, but you don’t see people using tax collectors as symbols of their faith. But they will tell you it is because Jesus didn’t say, “I will make you tax collectors of men”. No, He said, “*I will make you fishers of men*” (**Matthew 4:19**). Why did He say this? Because He was speaking to Simon Peter and Andrew, who were fishers (**verse 18**). This was the only recorded instance of Jesus using this parable, so why has it been magnified and touted as a monument of the so-called Christian faith?

¹³⁶ “Christian symbols: Fish (Ichthus), cross and crucifix”. Accessed March 2013.

http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_symb.htm

¹³⁷ American Atheists. “Fish”. Accessed March 2013.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20080211215554/http://www.atheists.org/christianity/fish.html>

¹³⁸ Walker, B. G. *The Woman’s Encyclopaedia of Myths and Secrets*. 1983. p. 313-314.

Others will say that the fish symbol reminds them of the miracles Jesus performed in feeding thousands of people using just a few fish and a few loaves of bread. But you don't see them using bread loaves as symbols of the faith, even though Jesus is the bread of life (**John 6:35**). Nor do you see people using fish and bread together. You only see them using the fish, which is not a symbol used to represent Christ anywhere in the entire Bible!

Christians claim that the Greek letters in the word for "fish" form an acronym that means "Jesus Christ God's Son Savior", that it was a secret symbol during times of intense persecution of Christians. Or they say that it is symbolic of baptism because just as fish cannot live out of water, so the Christian cannot live without the regeneration of baptism.

But all these things are simply made-up traditions and beliefs of MEN! They are not commanded, or even hinted at, in the Bible. Jesus NEVER said, "Use the sign of the fish in remembrance of Me". And if the fish symbol is not a sign of the true Jesus, then it must be a sign of ANOTHER, false Jesus! It is an IDOL! If you use this sign, you are an idolator, and no idolator will have a part in the Kingdom of God (**Galatians 5:20-21, Ephesians 5:5, Revelation 21:8, 22:15**, etc.). So it's up to you to choose where you want to be. If the Lord is your God, then burn your idols and follow Him!

FERTILITY COMES FROM GOD

Psalm 127:3. *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

Children are a gift from God, and He rewards those who please Him with fruitfulness. There are Biblical accounts of barren women who were subsequently blessed by God with children. Rachel for instance was in a race with her sister Leah to produce children for Jacob, and when she became angry at Jacob, he asked, “*Am I in God’s stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?*” (**Genesis 30:2**). After some time, God granted Rachel’s request, and she had two sons of her own. Another example is the story of Hannah in **1 Samuel 1**. Obeying the Lord will give increased abundance, including offspring, so that the followers of God will be more numerous than the sands of the seashore (see also **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**).

Deuteronomy 7:12-13. *Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.*

God’s blessing is to increase the fruit of the body and the fruit of the crops, but if a people continue to displease Him, He withholds the fruit of the womb from them as a punishment.

Hosea 9:16-17. *Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb. My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.*

Job 27:13-14. *This is the portion of a wicked man... If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.*

God says that those who rebel against Him will not bear offspring, but even if they do reproduce, He will destroy their children. Because they have forgotten the laws of God, He will forget their children (**Hosea 4:6**) and send other nations to destroy them.

Isaiah 13:17-18. *Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them.... Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.*

PROTECTION COMES FROM GOD

True protection comes from God and not from the sign of the cross or anything else used as a charm to ward off “evil spirits”. But that protection is only given to those who obey God’s commandments.

Psalm 33:16-20. *There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: **a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.** An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; **To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.** Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.*

Ezekiel 7:19. *They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: **their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD:** they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.*

It is useless to trust in horses, chariots, mighty armies, or wealth. None of those can deliver a person. But only in righteousness will a person find safety and peace.

Isaiah 54:14-17. *In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: **whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.** Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. **No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper;** and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

Psalm 91:5, 7-11. *Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; **A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.** Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. **Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee,** neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*

But this protection is conditional. If a righteous person turns away from keeping the commandments, God’s protection is withdrawn.

Ezekiel 33:12. *Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, **The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression:** as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.*

And if you receive a rebuke from someone about your sin, and you refuse to repent, you will be allowed to perish in your sins, just as Israel did.

Deuteronomy 32:30. *[The enemies of Israel asked,] How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?*

But if you repent from your sins, and keep the commandments of the Lord, He will again protect you. And your enemies will be destroyed, and “you will see them again no more forever” (**Exodus 14:13**).

PEACE COMES FROM GOD

With protection from God comes peace from God.

Psalm 119:165. *Great peace have they which love thy law...*

Psalm 37:37. *Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*

Isaiah 26:3. *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Isaiah 32:17. *And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.*

When you please God by keeping His commandments, “*you shall find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man*” (**Proverbs 3:4**). Even if you are surrounded by your enemies, if you continue in the way of truth and trust in God, even your enemies will leave you alone.

Proverbs 16:7. *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

But, again, this blessing from God is conditional. It's up to you to decide if you will walk in His law or not. If not, then you can be sure that He will neither protect you nor give you peace.

Isaiah 48:22. *There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*

“WE KNOW IT’S PAGAN. SO WHAT?”

“Yeah, I know Christmas is pagan, but I do it to honor Jesus. He is the reason for the season, and we celebrate Christmas to remember His birth. That’s what it means to us – it’s not pagan to us.”

I have heard many people say such things when confronted about the holidays being pagan. It’s not pagan **to them**, so what’s the harm? Well, let’s look at it a little differently.

Even if the cross were not a pagan symbol, you can’t take a Mayan temple, put a cross on it, and call it Christian! You can’t just cross out the names of pagan sacrifices and replace them with Christian names and man-made observances to take their place, because the **heart** of the festival is still unclean!

Job 14:4. *Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.*

These holidays have always been pagan, and calling them Christian does not change what they are – observances that oppose God. They cannot repent and be “baptized”, and God would never baptize them, just as He never baptizes or gives His spirit to people who oppose His law!

These holidays all **belong** to Satan. By observing them, you are acknowledging him as your master (**Romans 6:16**). They are HIS days, and no amount of imagining that they are someone else’s will change that. Claiming to honor God while observing these days doesn’t change the fact that they honor His enemy, Satan!

1 Corinthians 10:20-21. *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils, and not to God**; and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils.*

Satan is the god of this world (**2 Corinthians 4:4**), and the world pays homage to him and his devils with every religious observance and symbol. Religious leaders are **supposed** to teach “*the difference between the holy and profane*” so that people will “*discern between the unclean and the clean*” (**Ezekiel 44:23**). But the whole world is under Satan’s sway, and the people and their leaders are unclean, and every work of their hands is unclean (**Haggai 2:11-14**).

Christmas, Easter, crosses, fish.... – these things are unclean at their very core, and no amount of wishful thinking will ever change that.

Deuteronomy 12:32. *What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*

God said that you were to do what He said – not to add to it, nor take away from it. What He gave us is enough – more than enough – for us to do. Doing more is not “even better”, doing more is sin and leads to evil and death.

The incident with Saul in **1 Samuel 15** comes to mind. Saul was commanded by God through Samuel to “utterly destroy” all the Amalekites.

1 Samuel 15:3. *Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.*

The command was to destroy EVERYTHING! But Saul returned with the king of the Amalekites and the best of the flocks and herds.

Verse 9. *But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.*

They took it upon themselves to determine what was “good” and thus, should be spared, and what was “bad” and thus, should be destroyed.

Verses 11, 13-15. *It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and **hath not performed my commandments**.... And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: **I have performed the commandment of the LORD**. And Samuel said, What*

*meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: **for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.***

God wasn't pleased with Saul because he did not do what God had said. Saul decided for himself what was good and what was bad, yet he honestly believed he was performing the commandments of the Lord. But he thought it would be better to save back some animals for a sacrifice, which God never mentioned. Saul probably thought, "God said to destroy everything, but wouldn't it be better to sacrifice the animals to Him in worship and thanksgiving for our wonderful victory over the Amalekites?! Yes! I think He would like that very much."

You either keep His commandments, or you don't. There is no way to "keep them better". Trying to do so is ADDING to the Word of God.

God never said to keep Christmas, or to remember Jesus' birth. Not once! Therefore, doing so is ADDING to His word, and BREAKING the command of God! God never said to keep Easter or the other holidays either. He never said to honor Him with a cross, a fish, or any other symbol. In fact, God commanded that NO IMAGE should be made of Him (**Deuteornomy 4:15-19**). Thinking that it might be better to make something to remind yourself of Him is again adding to His commandment. God would rather have your obedience!

1 Samuel 15:22-23. *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. **Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.***

You've read the proof. Now the choice is up to you. Will you ignore the proof and continue to blindly follow your Babylonish church as she leads you into the ditch? Or, will you repent and STOP keeping these days and destroy the symbols of His enemy? "*Seek the Lord while He may be found*" (**Isaiah 55:6**), or else you'll have a front-row seat for the coming destruction from the Lord where He will cast your carcase upon the powdered remains of your church and images!

This work is completely non-denominational and is meant to fulfill Christ's great commission to "*preach the gospel to every creature*" (Mark 16:15). **This publication is not to be sold;** "*freely ye have received, freely give*" (Matthew 10:8).

The Bible tells us to PROVE ALL THINGS, and The Simple Answers encourages people to do just that. If you cannot PROVE what you believe, you have no right to believe it! Many of the things we print are shocking because they are different from what you've heard, but if something we say offends or upsets you, we hope you will take the time to set aside your preconceived ideas and PROVE your point from the Bible to see if you truly have been right all these years.

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